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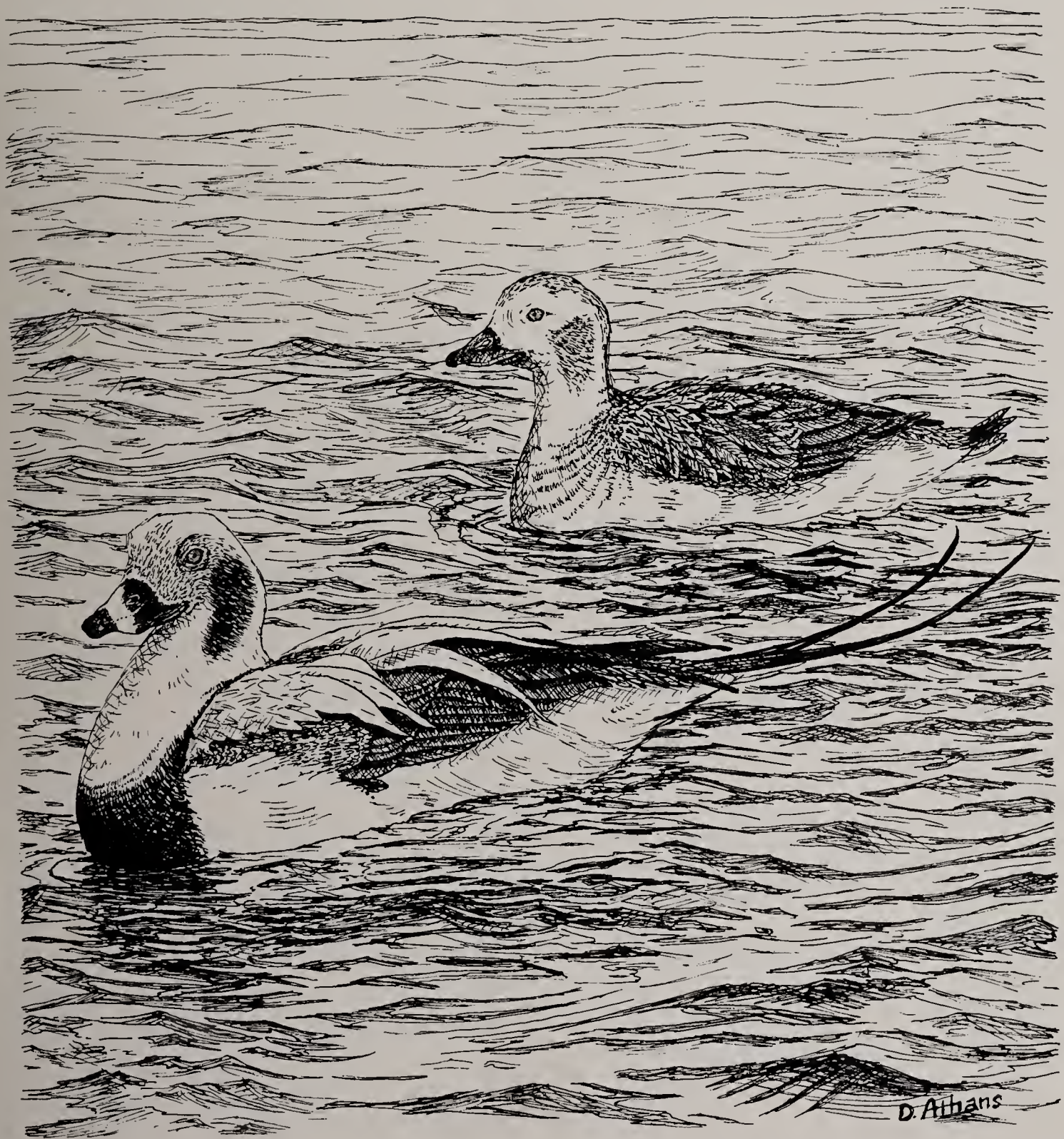

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Letter from the editor

Part of the reason for IOS' existence and for this journal is to publish scientific data collected via Christmas and Spring Bird Counts and throughout the four seasons. Much of this data is gathered by everyday birders like you and me who are interested in improving our identification skills, documenting breeding success, recording migration trends, observing birds in the backyard, or engaging in myriad other ways to enjoy birding in Illinois.

While the data may appear to be just an extensive list of species and numbers, I urge you to take a closer look. What you discover could enhance your enjoyment of birds as well as help future researchers in their quest to protect the birds of Illinois.

While doing a breeding bird transect survey of two Lake County Forest Preserves this summer, I reviewed Vernon Kleen's 1992 and 1993 breeding season reports published in *Meadowlark*. I learned that Alder and Least Flycatchers are late migrants and that I could not necessarily count them as breeding birds even if they did appear in mid-June.

An Illinois Department of Conservation wildlife biologist also informed me that he has used *Meadowlark*'s published data for research on Canada Geese.

These experiences encouraged me to send my bird sightings to the appropriate field notes editors. I hope you will do so, too. Just send your detailed information - species seen, exact date, and exact location including city and county - to the editors mentioned at the end of the reports.

And before you go out in the field, why not check the back pages of *Meadowlark*? There is a great deal to be learned there.

Should you have questions or comments about the data we publish in *Meadowlark*, please write to me or one of the field notes editors. And while you've still got pen in hand, thank Vernon Kleen, Robert Danley, Robert Chapel, and Eric Walters for the many long hours they have put into compiling this useful information.

Sheryl DeVore

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About Our Cover

David Athans drew the male and female Oldsquaw in winter plumage. The Oldsquaw was one of 27 species of ducks seen in Sangamon County last winter. Athans, a member of the Chicago Ornithological Society, has exhibited his drawings at the Midwest Birding Symposium and also sells his works through Wild Birds Unlimited. Athans accepts commissioned work and can be reached at 708-388-0285.

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MEADOWLARK

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President's Message

The new year has not yet begun and we are already planning for the 1995 annual meeting. The first one, held in late April, was quite successful and capably run by our new board member, Dick Blewett. At the meeting, Dr. David Willard talked about taxonomy and genetics, using some of the Field Museum of Natural History's rare skins which attendees were able to see up close. Joe Milosevich spoke about how he gets those unique photos of nesting birds you see in *Meadowlark*, and Dave Johnson presented a slide show about Chicago's rare birds.

The vision for our annual meeting is still evolving. I urge you to add your input and energy into helping shape this important IOS function. Should we schedule it for a single day or an entire weekend? Should we focus mainly on field trips or lectures? Dick Blewett is happy to hear suggestions. He welcomes your ideas on speakers as well as how we can make the meeting more successful such as perhaps co-sponsoring the event with local birding clubs. Your involvement can greatly affect this vital IOS event.

Eric Walters

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Christmas Bird Counts: Science or Seance?

by William Moskoff

Few who have braved a brutally cold December day on a Christmas Bird Count in Illinois would consider it a bad experience. On the contrary, it is one that bonds the many birders who annually give their time and energy to counting birds. And there is always the chance that one might hear the mellifluous call of a winter rarity such as a Carolina Wren or catch a Bald Eagle soaring along the shoreline of Lake Michigan. It is, in short, a terrific birding event. But is it science? Are Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) merely interesting outings or do they actually make a significant contribution to our understanding of how many birds there are in early winter in North America and where they are located?

CBCs as science are clearly flawed, partly because of defects inherent in the system, and partly because of the limitations of those who participate in the program. As John Terborgh said, the count is "basically an organized competition and social event for birders." Yet, for all of its problems, the CBC continues to be used by ornithologists, environmentalists, and government policy makers. Terborgh himself concedes that the CBC has served well because it "constitutes the longest continuous record of bird populations available in North America" (Terborgh 1989). So the fact is that the CBC's extensive data, both long-term and large-scale, and its broad coverage on the continent, provide a rich resource of information despite the inherent multitude of methodological sins.

The CBC began quite modestly in 1900 when a mere 27 people, sponsored by the forerunner of the National Audubon Society, undertook a count in several selected spots around the country. Since then, the CBC, held within two weeks of Christmas, has grown at an enormous rate, to the point where in 1992 more than 40,000 people participated. Each group covers a 15-mile diameter circle on foot, bicycles, and snowshoes, and in cars, boats, and even planes.

The CBC is not the only effort to count birds. There are many surveys covering local areas, whether of rookeries or aerial surveys of wading birds. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service conduct the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) to count breeding pairs of every species within a narrowly defined area of a particular kind of habitat. The BBS is a demanding exercise, requiring more skill and patience than the CBC. Those who do the breeding sur-

Christmas Bird Count: A Historical Perspective

Prior to 1900, Christmas Day in America was not for counting birds, but for hunting them. Ornithologist Frank Chapman decided in 1900 to change that tradition by organizing bird counts in the northeast on Christmas Day.

Chapman established 25 counts with 27 observers. Today, the annual birding event encompasses more than 1,600 counts nationwide as well as in Canada, Mexico, Central America, and even Brazil. In addition, at least 10 counts are held in the Pacific Islands.

In North America, more than 600 species are recorded annually by some 40,000 observers. The count has become a social, scientific, and recreational event. Often the bird data round-up is done at traditional countdown parties where birders keep their rarities a secret until the end, like seasoned poker players.

Frank Chapman's substitute for the Christmas slaughter has now become a competitive sport and a nearly 100-year-old tradition. The Christmas count is today and perhaps always will be the largest avian data collection effort by birders.

Bundled for warmth, these wintertime birders scout for some rare avian finds. Scenes like this are common during annual Christmas Bird Counts. Photo by Annalee Fjellberg.

vey must recognize bird calls and nesting behavior as well as distinguish breeders from transients. But because the BBS is usually done in June, it often misses birds including raptors, coastal, and wetlands species which breed before the BBS is done[1] (Butcher 1990). Thus, the CBC is useful for the mere fact that it covers a different time period than the BBS.

Trends in population changes can be compared using the two surveys. The BBS is generally regarded as the sounder of the two surveys from a methodological perspective, but in a study done comparing population changes of seven species, six of the seven showed the same pattern in both of the surveys (Butcher and Fuller 1986). Both sources, for example, confirm the decline of Black Ducks in eastern United States for the past 30 years (Butcher 1994). Thus, notwithstanding alleged defects of the CBC as a measure of population dynamics, the CBC and the BBS tend to support each other.

CBC data has been depended upon in several critical ways. For example, CBCs have been extremely useful in longitudinal studies of population shifts; the inexorable westward movement of the House Finch was identified from CBC data (Budlinger 1986). Moreover, the large-scale nature of the CBC, with its thousands of volunteer investigators, is frankly the only way we can get a sense of the patterns of movements and numbers of species and the impact of a variable such as weather (Root 1988). The availability of such long-term and large-scale data allowed Terry Root to go well beyond anecdotal speculations about changes in winter bird populations and compile an impressive picture of the distribution of wintering birds in North America (Root 1988). No investigator could possibly have had the research funds to assemble the data that are available at (virtually) zero cost. Collecting these data is justified if only because it permits those who make environmental policy to know where birds are concentrated and where they exist in small numbers.

CBCs have been extremely useful in longitudinal studies of population shifts; the inexorable westward movement of the House Finch was identified from CBC data.

The most serious charge against the CBC is that it lacks the standardization associated with "good science." In particular, routes covered and the intensity of effort to count birds vary annually for the same location and between locations for the same year. Birders may, for example, cover the same area differently depending on the weather. Climatic conditions also affect the number of birds present in any given area. The evidence is that for a number of species there is an inverse relationship between the number of birds counted and wind speed, while there is no correlation between temperature and bird totals. The data are not normalized to take account of this (Raynor 1975).

Lack of standardization exists regarding the competence of both the counters and the equipment they use. Participants are not screened; they do not have to pass a test demonstrating

their ability to distinguish different species or count the number of individuals in a flock. Professionals and amateurs alike tend to underestimate the number of individual birds in a large group and the bias rises with the size of the group (Johnson 1981). In addition, the quality of equipment has improved immensely making bird identification much easier. Hence, more uncommon species may be counted now than in the past just because of the improvement in optics and guides. Nevertheless, one does not want to make too much of the equipment issue if only because a birder with a good ear is worth more than the finest pair of binoculars.

The issue of effort is a crucial one and has been studied by Butcher and McCulloch (1990). In order to account for effort, the number of observers on a CBC is divided by either party-hours or party-miles to get an accurate gauge of numbers of birds in any given count area. The underlying assumption is that as the number of observers increases so too does the count of birds. Butcher and McCulloch found this to be true for Red-tailed Hawks, for example. But for some species, it is unlikely that there is a linear relationship between the number of observers and the number of birds. This is particularly true of birds in a well-defined habitat that can be easily covered such as a pond where one individual could count the number of waterfowl present just as easily as six persons could. Indeed, Butcher and McCulloch showed that a positive relationship between count and effort does not exist for Mallards and Bald Eagles. For other birds, such as hawks and shrikes, the number of miles covered, for instance, might make a significant difference in the annual count. What must be stressed is that the appropriate analyses of CBCs may be different for different species depending on habits and habitats.

Furthermore, Butcher and McCulloch said biases may arise from the fact that more effort is exerted in areas of high human population density, while certain bird species may be most likely to be found in remote areas. In assessing CBC data there is no way to control for this particular perverse distribution of effort. Finally, because effort has increased over time, absolute numbers of birds reported have generally risen. This problem could at least be partially offset by analyzing the numbers of birds seen and hours of counting.

Robert Arbib (1981) also sees a number of inherent flaws in the CBCs including the frequent widening of the predefined count circle, overlapping of count circles - in some cases egregiously so - annual weather fluctuations, the wide variation in the number of people assigned to a count area, and effort intensity. Arbib bemoans the absence of a serious use of habitat analysis and what he euphemistically calls "observer credibility." In an ideal world, Arbib sees a count that would require participants to meet a minimum level of experience. Feeder station counts, which upwardly bias the CBC, would also be separated from field observations.

Several examples exist of counts that might be providing inaccurate information on the numbers of certain species, stemming principally from lack of competence or wishful thinking of birders who want to see the unexpected. After the Thayer's Gull was officially defined as a species distinct from the Herring Gull in 1973, at least one writer suggested that the CBC data on these two birds in western North America were quite contradictory and hence unreliable. In essence, observers in some places began suddenly to see a rather unusual number of Thayer's Gulls (Mark 1981). Similar discrepancies have been cited in the counts of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. The CBC data displayed an unexpectedly high number of Cooper's to Sharp-shinned Hawks. Veteran birders are well aware of the difficulty of identifying a Cooper's Hawk because of how closely it resembles the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Observers may have been biased in favor of identifying the less common Cooper's Hawk (Daniels 1975). Thus, while the total number of accipiters may be correct, the breakdown between species may not.[2]

Observer bias is also fostered by the competitive atmosphere that marks the CBC. There is more prestige associated with seeing a winter rarity than counting common species. Observers may begin to see what they would like to see. It is hard to call anything a serious scientific pursuit when the results represent, even in some small way, a self-fulfilling prophesy. While the presence of a rarity is not especially consequential when it comes to the analysis of trends, what is important is the diversion of energies and time that go toward finding rarities in the competitive environment that frequently mark the counts. The single Gray Catbird that appears on a count may not be as important as the number of American Robins or Dark-eyed Juncos observed.

As a corollary, there is the assumption that a previously abundant species still exists in large numbers. But since measuring incremental change is at the very heart of the CBC, there is no room for a cavalier attitude toward counting an abundant species. Said one observer two years ago, "You can never count too many crows." Yes, you can. Good science does not assume what it is supposed to measure.

CBCs have been the basis for some 200 refereed journal articles, not to mention a number of monographs (Pennisi 1991). However, their extensive use is not an argument in support of their validity; bad data are bad data whether they are used not at all or are used frequently. The justification for the use of the CBC must rest on its own

merits.

In this regard, one of the most important accusations made against CBCs is that count areas are not randomly distributed. A random sample means each count area would have an equal chance of being selected. The rationale behind random sampling is that if one is to extrapolate the results of the annual survey to all of North America, those circles that are surveyed should be representative of the whole area. But count areas are not randomly selected. Indeed, because people go to counts closest to their homes, the suburbs are disproportionately represented relative to urban and remote areas. Birders cover urban locations less thoroughly than other parts of their count area (Wilds 1980). Inner cities are frequently excluded from the count (Butcher 1990).

But Drennan (1981) has made a case for CBCs as a reliable data base in spite of the absence of a random distribution of count areas. She said the distribution of birds in North America is itself non-random; that is, it is unevenly distributed on the continent. Therefore, it is more reasonable to select a stratified sample, that is, one which represents predetermined pieces of the universe. Drennan said it is more "efficient" to select count areas where there is a high species density than to pick areas of low density. In fact, the CBC is geared to sampling areas of high species density. The absence of randomness in selecting count areas is compounded because within each count area the areas selected to count birds are those where birds are considered most likely to be seen.

While this system may be justified by the premise that you go where the birds are, there are at least two defects with such a methodology, both arising from habitat changes. If a particular territory within the count area has been surveyed year after year, changes in the area because of housing construction or its conversion to agriculture, for example, will initially bias the count, depending on how birds adapt to the change. Second, habitat loss in areas not traditionally included in the count may increase the concentration of local birds within count areas over time, so that the counts are less accurate as a measure of total populations.

CBCs are important. There is no other group of organisms for which we have such counts and when used with care, the counts identify trends in the winter bird population. But birders need to recognize that they are supposed to be conducting scientific studies and not seeking the best rarity to be one up on their friends. The CBC is not a competition.

CBCs may be an imperfect measure of the wintering bird population, arguably even highly flawed. But the sheer weight of this massive data base and even the solid track record the winter counts have for verifying trends found in other ways creates a plausibility that cannot be ignored. Perfect science it is not, but until another way is found to count the birds of winter, the Christmas Bird Count it is.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks are due David Willard for a number of helpful suggestions, and to Carol Gayle and Jeffrey Sundberg for their comments on an earlier draft.

Footnotes

[1] The BBS "encountered" 241 species more frequently than the CBC and the latter encountered 210 species more frequently than the former. (Butcher 1990, p. 12)

[2] It is worth pointing out that there are other possible explanations. For instance, because Sharp-shinned Hawks are more highly migratory, the winter ratio of Cooper's to sharp-shinned could be elevated.

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—William Moskoff is Hollender Professor of Economics at Lake Forest College, 555 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

Illinois Christmas Bird Count 1993

by David B. Johnson

Birders recorded a total of 159 species in 55 count circles during the annual Christmas Bird Count, held during a 2 and 1/2-week period from 17 December 1993 through 3 January 1994. In addition, three species not on the Illinois checklist were recorded, three Trumpeter Swans in Decatur (recently introduced in Wisconsin), a state high count of 21 Monk Parakeets at Chicago's lakefront (now recognized as countable in some states by the American Birding Association), and Ringed-turtle Dove. An exotic Blue-crowned Parakeet was also observed.

Count week birds included Eared Grebe and two Blue-gray Gnateatchers. The gnateatcher was a count week first for Illinois. Also recorded on the count but seen in different states were Western Grebe (Missouri) and Great Black-backed Gull (Indiana).

Once again, those competitive and hard-scouting birders from Rend Lake in southern Illinois recorded more than 100 species (107 to be exact) as well as the highest total individuals. Of the 3,224,037 individuals counted, 3,190,000 were starlings, graekles, and Red-winged Blackbirds.

Above average temperatures preceded the 1993 Illinois Christmas Bird Count. After that, temperatures were erratic. Above freezing temperatures were recorded on the first week, but by the second week, highs were in the teens only to rebound to above freezing after 1 January 1994. The mean low temperature was 27.8 F and the mean high was 35.2 F (Table 1).

Water was totally open in more than 50 percent of the count areas, while the rest had partially frozen water. There was almost no snow cover. Accordingly, observers recorded above-average numbers of herons, waterfowl, and other lingering passerines just before a statewide deep freeze in mid-January 1994.

Data Organization

The 1993/94 CBC data has been organized according to north, central, and southern regions (see map, figure 1). This method better facili-

Pileated Woodpecker.
This species was seen on the Evanston North Shore Christmas Bird Count for the first time in 32 years. Drawing by Brian K. Willis.

tates data aggregates and comparisons (more on that, later). It also follows the general isothermal lines as defined by Gault (1922) and Smith and Parmalee (1955).

The count organization follows latitudinal and longitudinal lines north to south, then east to west. This helps lakefront counts (and other counts) line up for better data comparison.

From this data organization (Table 2) some immediate patterns can be recognized. Carolina Chickadees seem to crawl up the Wabash River valley while Eurasian Tree Sparrows move slowly up the Illinois and Mississippi River valleys with displaced individuals being recorded at Lake Clinton and Muscatine, Iowa.

Northern Shrike, recorded in such northern Illinois counts as Rockford and Barrington and Evanston, is not recorded in southern Illinois and seldom is it recorded, even, in central Illinois. Conversely, Loggerhead Shrike is recorded in southern Illinois, but not in northern and central Illinois.

The data also shows the unusual and local occurrence of 100 Black Vultures at Cypress Creek in southern Illinois. Then, there were the 17 Field Sparrows at Thorn Creek, one of the northern counts. Seventeen Field Sparrows are to be expected in southern Illinois. But in northern Illinois, even a single individual is a rarity. Were there really 17 Field Sparrows at Thorn Creek? Or were some of those birds actually American Tree Sparrows?

While all these facts may seem intuitively obvious to a seasoned birder and Christmas counter, they serve to illustrate a point. The data and winter bird distribution begs to be analyzed to determine the seasonal population trends for a particular species. (The pitfalls of analyzing this data are discussed in the accompanying article, "CBCs: Science or Seance?")

Highlights

New to the state's Christmas count species list was the astounding **Northern Gannet**, which was seen being chased by a Bald Eagle along the Mississippi River at Sunset Park, Rock Island. Also, new for the state's list was a **Cattle Egret** at Crane Lake and a **Mew Gull** (perhaps overdue) at Davenport, on the Illinois side of the river.

While not a state first, a well-described **Red-throated Loon**, seen by many observers, was recorded on the Springfield count. It was the fourth time this species has been observed during the Christmas bird count. A well-described **Common Moorhen** (Calumet Sand Ridge, Chicago) was recorded previously only twice in Illinois including a 1975 Waukegan count bird that was injured.

Other unusual birds included 20 White Pelicans (Pere Marquette, a new state high count); **Great Egret** (McHenry); Greater White-fronted Goose (Union, 11, all-time state high count; Horseshoe, 8; Princeton IA; and Clinton Lake); Ross' Goose (Rend Lake); Black Scoter (Rend Lake); 1 Osprey (Clinton, IA); 4 Golden Eagles in southern Illinois; 2

Gray Partridges (Van Patten, the only 2 recorded in the state!); 3 Least Sandpipers (Union County); Lesser Black-backed Gull (a count first for Springfield); **6 Barn Owls** including a nest at Cypress Creek, 1 adult with 3 young and 2 other adults at another site (all-time state high count); a solitary Fish Crow (Horseshoe Lake); American Pipit (Rend Lake, 7 and Horseshoe Lake, 1) which is seemingly being ferreted out more often for the state by keen observers; unusual lingering warblers included 7 Common Yellowthroats (1 male at Barrington, a count week bird at Joliet, and 5 at Union County); Nashville (Union), Cape May (Quincy), Palm (Lisle), Black-and-white (Springfield), and 4 Pine (a new state high count, Crab Orchard NWR) Warblers. A single Indigo Bunting was recorded at Rend Lake; which seems to be an annual occurrence lately on Illinois CBCs. Unusual sparrows included lone Vesper Sparrows at Forest Glen and Western Mercer; Lincoln's Sparrows (1, Horseshoe Lake, 1, MU IA, and 1, Forest Glen); 12 Le Conte's Sparrows at Rend Lake, plus 3 at Carlyle Lake , and finally a lone Harris Sparrow at Carlyle Lake.

Additional unusual sightings included 3 Virginia Rails (Waukegan); Pileated Woodpecker, a first for Evanston North Shore in 32 years; and Yellow-headed Blackbird (Clinton Lake). Bloomington recorded its first Bald Eagle, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Gray Catbird.

Dan Williams, Rockford count compiler, said the 5 Bald Eagles recorded on his count were unusual. The increase in eagle numbers outside of traditional locations such as the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers poses some interesting questions. While some of these eagles are migrants pushed into our state from freezing rivers and lakes to the north, it appears we are truly seeing an increase in wintering numbers of Bald Eagles in Illinois (see Bald Eagle histogram).

Irruptive winter finches were represented by Pine Siskins and good numbers of Common Redpolls, particularly in the northern counts. Only 7 redpolls were recorded on central counts. There were also scattered reports of Evening Grosbeak, in very small numbers, as far south as Rend Lake (a count first there). Crossbills were only conspicuous by their near absence (1 on Waukegan and 2 at Quad Cities, both Red Crossbills).

Also irruptive, Snowy Owls made a good showing along the Chicago lakefront with 9 individuals recorded. There were also 2 inland occurrences (Illini and a count week bird at Schapville).

Compiler Analyses

Many compilers submitted analyses of their counts. For instance, Denis Kania, compiler of the Fermi Lab count, mentioned an all-time high count for Great Blue Heron (21 individuals). The author also recorded an all-time high for this species on the Evanston count (9 individuals). Was this in part due to an increase in lingering birds from a good breeding season in northeastern Illinois? In any event, statewide numbers have been increasing (see histogram). Also, many compilers noted an increase in Canada Geese numbers. Was this due, in part, to the species staging in northern and central Illinois just before the mid-January 1994 deep freeze?.

Compilers also remarked on the record high counts of Red-breasted Nuthatch. In fact, the 878 individuals recorded almost triples the previous statewide high of 303 in 1986 during the last 10 years (see histogram). Was this wintering explosion due to a very successful breeding season or a major influx due to a bad cone crop in the northern pine and coniferous forests, or both?

Chuck Wescott (Barrington) and Dick Palmer (Decatur) recorded all-time highs for Cedar Waxwing. Other berry-eating species including Brown

Part of a flock of 100 Common Redpolls tallied on the Joliet, ILCBC, Will County, 18 Dec. 1993. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Common Redpoll with Pine Siskins tallied on the Morris-Wilmington CBC, Will County. 1 Jan. 1994. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Thrasher, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, and American Robin seemed to linger longer even in the northern counts. And, all compilers agreed the House Finch explosion is continuing (see histogram); even though total numbers dipped this year. Was this due to a stabilizing wintering population? Or were some birds undetected? Next year's numbers for this species might give a clue.

Laurence Binford, while on the Evanston North Shore count, said 4 waterfowl species he had staked out before the count, disappeared during the count due to freezing temperatures. The good white oak acorn crop was recorded by the author as the cause for Evanston North Shore's high count (in 32 years) of Red-Headed Woodpecker and correspondingly good numbers of Blue Jays, a species that eats and caches acorns.

Observer, Danny Diaz and compiler, Joel Greenberg, lamenting the loss of open field habitat and the corresponding crash of Ring-necked Pheasant numbers, have now found that species wintering, in, of all places, dense cattail marshes (Waukegan and Evanston). Other observers are finding different micro-climates or habitats for unusual species such as sewage lagoons or warm water effluent streams, ditches, or ponds for lingering birds. One example is Waukegan's Virginia Rails which have become an annual occurrence. Deep ravines are now known to provide habitat in northern Illinois for Winter and Carolina Wrens and an occasional Tufted Titmouse.

Finally, the great Mississippi River flood during the summer of 1993 did affect some observers' ability to cover the bottomland areas well. Robert Thomas (Pere Marquette) reported that 50 percent of his count's area was still flooded and that 80 percent of the bottomland areas was not covered by Christmas Bird counters due to uprooted trees.

Documentation of Rare Species

A word must be said about documentation for rare sightings. Generally this state's compilers are good at policing details regarding their counts' rarities. A majority also know their Illinois winter bird distribution well. However, there still seems to be a lack of knowledge as to whether documentation is required for certain species.

For example, Double-crested Cormorant is probably a logical addition to the list for all southern and central Illinois counts. However, species such as Pine Warbler must be documented, even if it is at a known location such as Crab Orchard NWR. At least minimal details are necessary.

Winter Chipping Sparrows and Brewer's Blackbird must be meticulously documented. A suggestion is to draw a sketch in the field or better yet, photograph the rarity.

Future Analysis of CBC Data

More comparative data analysis will be possible in the future. Unfortunately, last year's count data was not tabulated or compiled in time for publication. We ask that the readers of this journal bear with us as we work to fulfill one of our primary goals, which is to react to ornithological field data. We would also like to thank our readers for the indulgence in delivering this data to the professional ornithologist, biologist, and amateur for further research. Suggestions for improvement are welcomed.

Acknowledgments

This report would not have been made possible without acknowledging the efforts of Alan Stokie, who so diligently edited all tables; Barbara Stitt, who compiled last year's 1992 data, and Joyce ZanFagna who made many format and data changes to the tables so they might fit in the journal. Also a special thanks must go to Dr. David Willard, who assisted in the organization of this count, Bill Moskoff who provided literature research; Alan Anderson who suggested organizing the Chicago area counts in a linear fashion; and Vernon Kleen and Ron Goetz who offered valuable comments. Thanks, also to Todd Fink and Judy DeNeal, compilers for a new state count circle: Cypress Creek in southern Illinois. Finally, Denis Kania (Fermi Lab) really got the troops out with a state high number of 87 observers.

— David B. Johnson,
504 Crown Point Drive,
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Editor's Note: This year's Christmas count period runs from 17 December 1994 to 2 January 1995. Contact your area compilers to learn how you can participate in this annual statewide event.

Literature Cited

Gault, Benjamin T. 1922 Checklist of birds of Illinois. Chicago. Illinois Audubon Society.

Smith, H.R. and Paul W. Parmalee. 1955. A distributional check list of the birds of Illinois. Illinois State Museum Popular Science Series, Vol. IV.

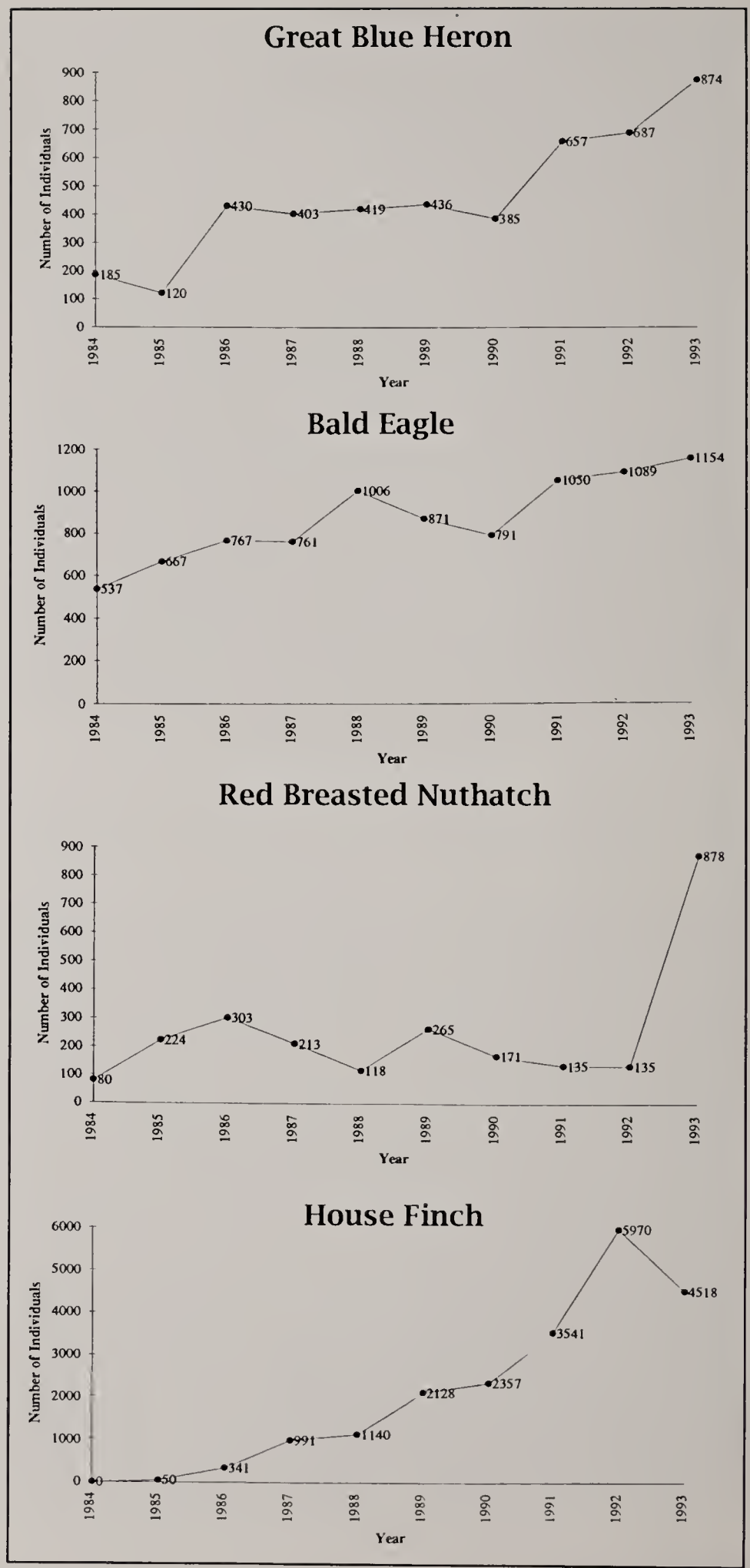
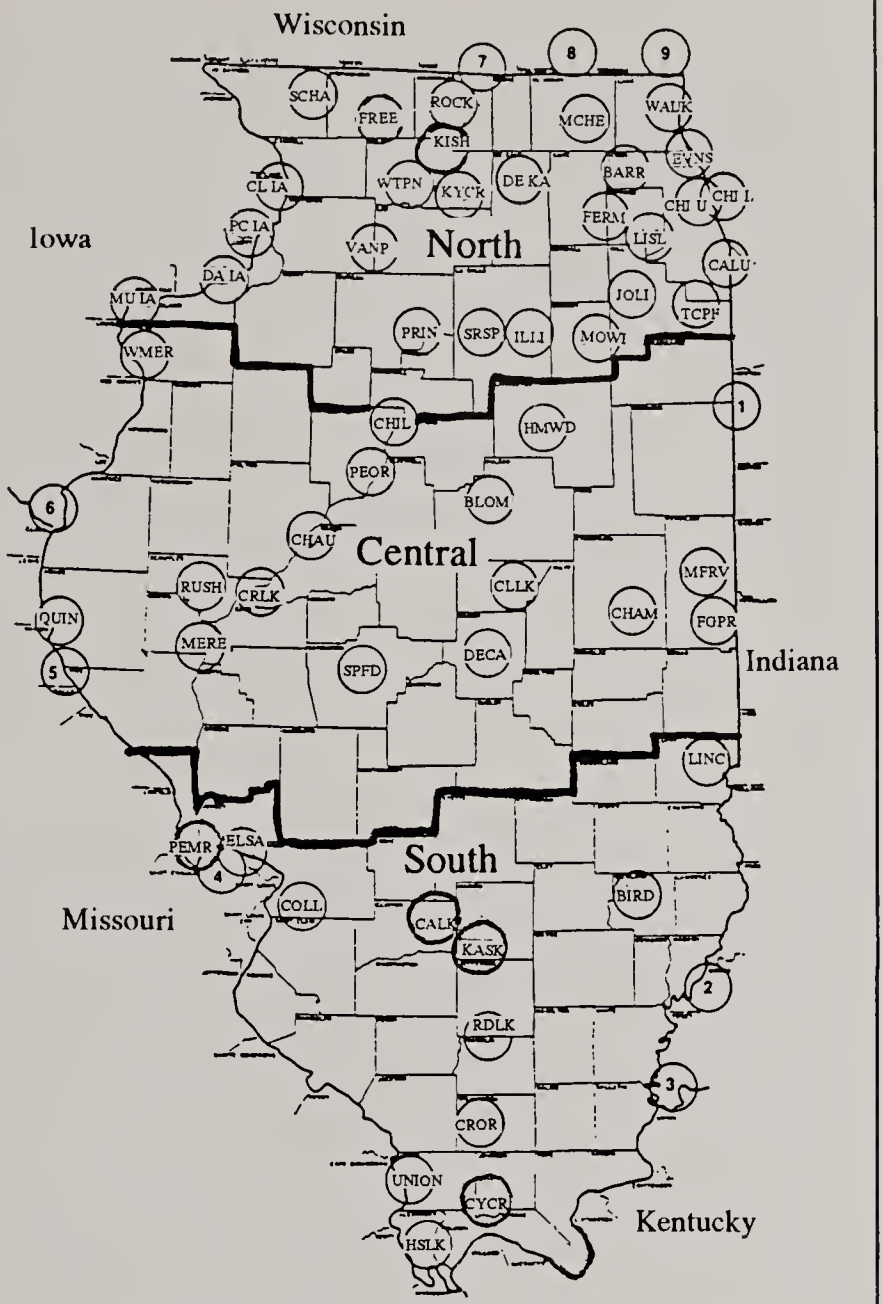


Figure 1 (map ids).

Illinois Christmas Bird Count circles cross-referenced to Table 1.

Circles with numbers are counts centered in bordering states which do not report results to Illinois:

1. Willow Slough — Iroquois Preserves
2. Western Gibson County
3. Posey County
4. Orchard Farm, MO
5. Hannibal, MO
6. Keokuk, IA-IL-MO
7. Beloit, WI
8. Lake Geneva
9. Kenosha County, WI.



Avian Annals

by Eric Walters

87 years ago: Numerous trips were taken throughout the state to determine the most abundant winter birds of the open country. The Lapland Longspur, American Crow, and American Goldfinch were the most plentiful in northern Illinois. The American Crow, Horned Lark, and House Sparrow topped the list in central Illinois while southern Illinois' most numerous species were the junco, meadowlark, and Northern Bobwhite. The most numerous bird statewide was the American Crow (Auk 41:371).

40 years ago: On the Decatur Christmas Bird Count, 11 waterbird species were located. None were geese. Also on that count, Carolina Wrens outnumbered all woodpeckers (except the downy) while a cormorant made that CBC's best bird list. Karl Bartel, Laurence Binford, Charlie Clark, Ralph Eiseman, Chuck Wescot, and eight other prominent birders spent almost six hours in the field on the Waukegan CBC, held New Year's Day. They tallied five Ring-billed Gulls, two Downy Woodpeckers, 18 crows, one White-breasted Nuthatch, two chickadees, two cardinals, and 15 goldfinches. They also discovered Canvasbacks, Ruddy Ducks, snipe, killdeer, a Bald Eagle, redpolls, 38 Rusty Blackbirds, and one Brewer's Blackbird (Illinois CBC records).

20 years ago: Forty percent of the total birds counted on the Illinois CBCs were grackles. Goshawks and Red Crossbills were regularly encountered. Crab Orchard's CBC compiler reported House Wren, Pine Grosbeak, and LeConte's and Vesper Sparrows.

Count Name	Map I.D.	Date	Time		Temp		Sky	Snow	Water	Wind	Wind	Veloc.	Field	Feeder	Feeder	Parties	Party	Party	Owling	Owling	Compiler	Area
			Begin	*End*	*Low*	*High*				Direction	*Low*	*High*	Obsrvs	Obsrvs	Hours		Hours	Miles	Hours	Miles		
Barrington	BARR	20-Dec	0700	1700	33	35	Cldy,LtSnow	0.00	Open	NW	5	15	32	3	20.00	17	97.25	463.75	2.50	1.00	C.A.Westcott	
Calumet City-Sand Ridge	CALU	2-Jan	0645	1645	30	32	Cldy	0.25	Prtly Froz	NE	6	12	36	6	9.50	15	74.25	307.75	0.00	0.00	M.Baker & P. Strand	
Chicago Lakefront	CHI L	25-Dec	0700	1530	14	18	Prtly Cldy	0.50	Prtly Froz	NWW	12	18	13	0	0.00	4	20.50	62.00	0.00	0.00	J. Greenberg	
Chicago Urban	CHI U	19-Dec	0400	1630	34	38	Prtly Cldly	0.00	Open	W	5	10	15	7	7.00	10-12	91.00	270.00	4.00	4.00	J. Sanders	
Clinton IA-Savanna Fulton	CL IA	22-Dec	0515	1700	23	28	Cldy	0.25	Prtly Froz	NW	6	15	6	0	0.00	3	30.00	316.00	3.00	39.00	P. C. Petersen	
De Kalb	DE KA	19-Dec	0700	1615	32	38	Cldy	0.00	Open	W	7	7	16	0	0.00	6	52.50	445.00	0.00	0.00	S. Messenger	
Evanston North Shore	EVNS	26-Dec	0400	1700	6	13	Clear	0.35	Prtly Froz	NW	5	10	56	24	24.00	19-22	155.00	461.00	4.00	25.00	D.B. Johnson	
Fermi Lab-Batavia	FERM	18-Dec	0530	1715	36	39	Cldy,LtRain	0.01	Open	SW,NW	6	16	87	3	10.00	10-29	163.00	562.50	4.50	25.00	D. Kania	
Freeport	FREE	18-Dec	0530	1630	26	36	Prtly Cldy	2.00	Open	WNW	5	7	9	4	18.00	4	29.75	366.50	1.00	1.00	K. Blackmore	
Illini State Park	ILLI	19-Dec	0500	1700	36	39	Cldy,LtSnow	0.00	Open	SW	0	20	10	4	10.50	4	33.75	277.25	2.75	21.50	J. Hampson	
Joliet	JOLI	18-Dec	0600	1630	34	40	Cldy,LtRain	0.00	Open	SW	5	15	13	1	1.00	9	46.50	334.00	1.00	2.00	J. Olson	N
Kishwaukee	KISH	2-Jan	0700	1630	24	31	Cldy,LtSnow	1.00	Prtly Froz	E	5	5	33	5	32.75	12	88.75	609.25	2.50	1.00	A. Branhagen	
Kyte Creek	KYCR	31-Dec	0800	1700	28	38	Prtly Cldy	2.00	Prtly Froz	SW	0	10	10	4	2.00	6	23.50	217.00	1.00	0.00	E.H. Cooley	O
Lisle Arboretum	LISL	19-Dec	0700	1630	35	35	Cldy,LtSnow	0.00	Open	SW	9	9	54	3	14.00	19-24	168.50	624.50	15.50	103.00	S. Friscia	
McHenry Audubon	MCHE	18-Dec	0715	1700	33	37	Cldy,Fog,LtSnow	0.00	Open	NNW	6	10	41	1	1.50	12	73.00	541.75	1.50	18.00	D.A. Frey	R
Morris-Wilmington	MOWI	1-Jan	0715	1630	34	36	Prtly Cldy, LtRain		Prtly Froz	SW	15	15	20	0	0.00	8	68.00	465.00	0.00	0.00	J. Stofan	
Muscatine IA-ILL City	MU IA	26-Dec	0600	1715	9	14	Prtly Cldy	2.00	Prtly Froz	VAR	5	10	10	7	14.00	4	39.50	372.00	3.50	43.00	P.C. Petersen	I
Princeton- Bureau	PRIN	30-Dec	0545	1630	-3	17	Prtly Cldy,LtSnow	0.50	Prtly Froz	SW	3	15	10	0	0.00	3	27.00	365.00	2.00	25.00	S. Shipp	
Princeton-Cordova	PC IA	23-Dec	0530	1700	10	21	Prtly Cldy	0.50	Prtly Froz	W	5	15	9	3	5.00	5	33.00	366.00	5.50	71.00	P.C. Petersen	H
Quad Cities	DA IA	19-Dec	0430	1715	34	39	Prtly Cldy	0.00	Open	W	5	10	24	17	34.00	14	82.00	637.00	13.00	123.00	P. C. Petersen	
Rockford	ROCK	18-Dec	0700	1700	33	37	Cldy,LtSnow	1.00	Open	NE	5	5	30	2	2.50	11-15	84.50	590.00	1.00	1.00	D. Williams	
Schapville	SCHA	2-Jan	0700	1600	20	28	Cldy,Snow	1.00	Prtly Froz	NE	3	5	7	0	0.00	5	30.00	316.00	0.00	0.00	T.N Ingram	
Starved Rock State Park	SRSP	2-Jan	0530	2100	32	37	Cldy	0.00	Prtly Froz	E	0	5	17	0	0.00	7	53.75	401.50	5.75	54.00	J. McKee	
Thorn Creek-Park Forest	TCPF	2-Jan	0645	1700	20	34	Cldy	1.00	Prtly Froz	E	0	2	39	22	22.00	13	95.50	484.50	3.00	11.50	A. Duke	
Van Patten	VANP	1-Jan	0651	1704	28	35	Cldy	3.00	Prtly Froz		10	10	17	6	12.00	7	40.75	306.00	1.25	6.00	G. Pfiefle	
Waukegan	WAUK	1-Jan	0400	1700	30	40	PrtlyCldy,LtSnow	0.00	Prtly Froz	SW	10	20	36	25	65.00	8-14	110.00	479.00	6.00	47.00	J. Greenberg	
White Pines	WTPN	18-Dec	0800	1600	28	40	Prtly Cldy	0.00	Open	W	0	15	12	7	5.00	6	18.50	143.50	0.00	0.00	J. McCormick	
Bloomington- Normal	BLOM	18-Dec	0700	1700	34	38	Cldy	0.00	Open	NW	5	15	17	0	0.00	7	27.00	174.00	0.00	0.00	D. Birkenholz	
Champaign County	CHAM	18-Dec	0615	1630	33	41	Cldy	0.00	Open	W	10	25	20	4	10.00	8	49.00	308.00	0.50	10.00	H.M.Parker	
Chautaugua-N.W.R.	CHAU	23-Dec	0615	1655	13	22	Prtly Cldy	0.00	Prtly Froz	W	3	20	20	1	1.00	6	52.00	312.50	0.50	0.00	R.G. Bjorklund	C
Chillicothe	CHIL	2-Jan	700	1600	34	38	Cldy	1.00	Prtly Froz	E	10	10	22	0	0.00	9	74.00	510.00	0.00	0.00	R. Collins	
Clinton Lake	CLLK	19-Dec	0445	1700	33	39	Cldy	0.00	Open	WNW	5	15	12	0	0.00	6	48.50	297.00	1.50	32.00	M. Deaton	E
Crane Lake-Sangamon	CRLK	18-Dec	0700	1630	34	37	Cldy	0.00	Open	NW	5	20	7	0	0.00	4	34.00	301.00	0.00	0.00	R. O. Randall	
Decatur	DECA	18-Dec	0445	1645	33	41	Cldy,LtRain	0.00	Open	W	6	6	4	7	18.00	2	16.00	186.00	2.00	37.00	R.D. Palmer	N
Forest Glen Preserve	FGPR	29-Dec	0530	1715	16	25	Cldy,LtSnow	2.00	PrtyFroz	NW	15	30	23	2	6.00	10	57.75	234.25	2.00	10.00	M.F. Campbell	
Humiston Woods	HMWD	18-Dec	0644	1702	34	36	Cldy,Fog,LtRain	0.00	Open	W	10	10	20	5	17.00	8	35.50	50.00	0.00	0.00	J. Jobst	I
Meredosia Island	MERE	2-Jan	0700	1700	30	36	Cldy	0.00	Prtly Froz	NW	4	4	5	0	0.00	3	25.00	291.00	0.00	0.00	T. Ward	
Middle Fork River Valley	MFRV	1-Jan	0415	1730	31	42	Prtly Cldy, LtRain	0.50	Prtly Froz	SW	10	30	18	3	3.00	9	63.25	409.00	3.75	58.00	S.D. Bailey	R
Peoria	PEOR	18-Dec	0630	1630	32	42	Cldy,LtRain	0.00	Open	N	10	15	27	0	0.00	10	86.50	557.10	0.00	0.00	L.11. Endres	
Quincy,IL-Marion Co.MO	QUIN	2-Jan	0530	1630	30	37		0.00	Prtly Froz	S	5	10	8	3	9.00	5	45.00	223.00	0.50	15.00	A. Dierkes	A
Rushville	RUSH	18-Dec	0800	1445	35	40	Cldy,LtRain	0.00	Prtly Froz	NW	10	15	8	26	26.00	3	12.75	142.00	0.00	0.00	H.E.Hedden	
Springfield	SPFD	19-Dec	0330	1700	34	41	Prtly Cldy	0.00	Open	SW	5	10	15	5	5.00	6	64.00	316.00	3.00	30.00	H.D. Bohlen	L
Western Mercer	WMER	17-Dec	0600	1700	39	43	Cldy	0.00	Open	SW	3	12	6	1	2.00	3	28.00	279.00	3.50	46.00	P.C. Petersen	
Bird Haven Sanctuary	BIRD	18-Dec	0645	1645	30	45	Prtly Cldy	0.00	Open	W	15	25	14	1	2.00	8	55.50	459.00	0.00	0.00	F.E. Storment	
Carlyle Lake	CALK	19-Dec	0445	1700			Prtly Cldy		Open	W	5	5	8	0	0.00	4	39.25	276.00	0.00	0.00	D. Kasselbaum	
Collinsville	COLL	18-Dec	0730	1630	34	43	Prtly Cldy	0.00	Open	NW	15	15	10	0	0.00	5	41.50	314.00	0.00	0.00	L.B. Hendrickson	S
Crab Orchard N.W.R.	CROR	18-Dec	0630	1630	35	45	Cldy	0.00	Open	NW	5	15	26	0	0.00	9	76.00	362.00	1.50	15.00	T.R. Evans	
Cypress Creek	CYCR	21-Dec	0700	1700	25	40	Clear	0.00	Open	WNW	5	5	19	0	0.00	8	72.00	522.00	4.50	43.00	J.K. DeNeal	O
Elsah	ELSA	30-Dec	0745	1430	15	22	Cldy	0.00	Prtly Open	W	15	20	3	0	0.00	2	10.50	57.00	0.00	0.00	T. DeLaney	
Horseshoe Lake	HSLK	21-Dec	0600	1730	29	43	Prtly Cldy	0.00	Open	W	3	6	10	0	0.00	5	52.00	325.00	2.00	10.00	V. Kleen	U
Kaskaskia Audubon	KASK	28-Dec	0715	1630	19	27	Prtly Cldy	1.00	Prtly Froz				5	1	6.00	2	17.10	126.25	0.00	0.00	J.E. Merkelbach	
LincolnTrail State Park	LINC	18-Dec	0637	1550	39	45	Prtly Cldy,LtRain	0.00	Open	W	10	20	20	1	1.00	7	47.00	262.00	0.00	0.00	D. Watts	I
Pere Marquette	PEMR	18-Dec	0800	1600	20	34	Cldy. Fog	0.00	Open	NW	5	10	20	0	0.00	6	42.00	289.00	0.00	0.00	R. Thomas	
Rend Lake	RDLK	18-Dec	0400	1700	35	48	Prtly Cldy,LtRain	0.00	Open	W	5	15	11	0	0.00	9	91.50	575.00	7.25	76.00	T. Fink	H
Union County	UNION	22-Dec	0630	1715	28	36	Prtly Cldy	0.00	Open	NW	4	8	17	0	0.00	9	69.50	264.00	1.50	10.00	V. Kleen	
					27.83	**35.20**							**1057**	**214**	**415.75**		**3161.85**	**19204.85**	**118.25**	**1014**		
					AvLow	**AvHi**							**Total**	**Total**	**Total**		**Total**	**Total**	**Total**	**Total**		

Species	WAUK	EVNS	CHI U	CHI L	CALU	MCHE	BARR	FERM	LISL	THOR	JOLI	MOWI	DE KA	ILLI	ROCK	KISH	KYCR	SRSP
Common Loon												1						
Pied-billed Grebe			1					1				9						
Horned Grebe	1				1	1								6				
Double-crested Cormorant				2	6													
Great Blue Heron	3	9hc	3		1		1	21hc	14	1	12	11	2	14	10	3	2	27
Great Egret						1*												
Black-crowned Night-Heron			5		6													
Tundra Swan	1						1					2nc				cw		
Mute Swan					98HC		30		5	3		2						
Snow Goose	6	1		3			1	4	2					1		1		1
Canada Goose	21094	9206hc	789	101	593	2913	10946	13018	8213	729	2727	8511	134	3058	8073	939	10	943
Wood Duck	4	1	5		1		1	9	6		1	3			4			
Green-winged Teal		2	1						1					17	1			
American Black Duck	59	31	28		22	2	13	34	123		12	272	2	225	26	10		17
Mallard	2465	2724	1681	123	2269	1006	1644	1919	2412	426	788	27773		10373	1884	734	54	250
Northern Pintail			2		1							2	1					
Northern Shoveler		2						13hc	16									
Gadwall			12		5		1	5hc	110hc		73	106		16	1			3
American Wigeon	4		2					1	17		cw	4						
Canvasback					1		1	2hc				5			3			
Redhead	4		3		2	3			1									
Ring-necked Duck		1	1		1			2	4		4		1	5				
Greater Scaup	20	645	3	147	2201						3							
Lesser Scaup	5	cw	6		3220	1					47	21		1				
scaup sp.	4				2													
Oldsquaw	2	1										1						
dark-winged scoter sp.		5																
Common Goldeneye	210	973	56	97	996	2	28	24	1		12	2182		19	20			189
C. Goldeneye x Hooded M.												1*						
Bufflehead	69	7	2	12	21	3			3		4	12						
Hooded Merganser	6	cw	4	1	9		5	2	1		27	28		5	3	1		
Common Merganser	54	16	9	27	282			1	15		98	2044		3210	1	3		521
Red-breasted Merganser	36	140hc	13	43	416	2			7			31		1				
Ruddy Duck	2				2			1			2	4	1					
duck sp.		68		15												6		
Turkey Vulture																		1
Bald Eagle		3					2		2	1		6			5	3		7
Northern Harrier								6		12	4	6		4	1	1		
Sharp-shinned Hawk		4			1	1		1	1	1		1				2		1
Cooper's Hawk	1	4hc	2		5	4	3	2	4	1	1	2		1	4	1		2
Northern Goshawk				1	cw		1			cw					1	1		
accitpiter sp.		1								2			1		1			
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	2													cw			
Red-tailed Hawk	58	34	3	3	48	32	83	93hc	102	82	26	64	19	26	62	71	18	46
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1					2	1		5	2	11		2	1	2	3	8
American Kestrel	25	21	3	3	44	19	26	26		43	35	29	14	21	33	28	6	30
Peregrine Falcon					1	1												
accipiter sp.											1							
hawk sp.								1	1	3		2			1			
Ring-necked Pheasant	4	1			9	14	3	40	1	19	6	33	10	6	29	26	17	3
Wild Turkey												3		1	7	cw		
Northern Bobwhite														1				12
Virginia Rail	3 HC										2							

Species	WAUK	EVNS	CHI U	CHI L	CALU	MCHE	BARR	FERM	LISL	THOR	JOLI	MOWI	DE KA	ILLI	ROCK	KISH	KYCR	SRSP
Common Moorhen					1*													
American Coot		1			4	1	1				1	1111		2	8	1		
Killdeer			1						1		cw			1	6			
Common Snipe		3								1					8	1		
Bonaparte's Gull		2	10	1							1			6				
Ring-billed Gull	755	1005	331	1739	1237	108	314	278	2505	28	98	627	7	200	44	9		519
Herring Gull	1411	179	82	318	5741	5	99	223hc	667		2	1060		83	15	22		388
Thayer's Gull	3	2		1	1													
Lesser Black-backed Gull					1*													
Glaucous Gull		2			10			1	1									1
Great Black-backed Gull					3*													
gull sp.	265	226	220		251		70	43		10		3				3		
Rock Dove	640	765	4000	594	1144	565	415	802	1176	497	229	239	296	130	539	1333	241	131
Mourning Dove	734	295	52	1	508	72	143	335	353	1110	188	104	40	52	273	386	157	112
Barn Owl																		
Eastern Screech-Owl	15	21	5			2	8	4	30	12	1	1	1	12	1	4	1	9
Great Horned Owl	11	6	4		2	13	10	26hc	29	15	4		5	9	12	5	1	11
Snowy Owl	2		4	3										1				
Barred Owl										2				2	14	1	1	7
Long-eared Owl	2						8	12	1	8								
Northern Saw-whet Owl									2	cw						1		
owl sp.									1							1		
Belted Kingfisher	11	6	5	1	5	6	10	21hc	14	1	6	4	1	3	9	8	2	5
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	30hc			3	1	1	3	8	47	5	2	3		8	2		9
Red-bellied Woodpecker	24	54hc	3	1	11	15	28	36	83	59	21	29	13	8	38	79	5	32
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	2	1	1					3						2	1		
Downy Woodpecker	101	200	78	4	60	49	95	120	196	97	51	95	27	26	124	139	26	54
Hairy Woodpecker	29	66	20		3	11	8	26hc	35	10	10	8		6	23	32	2	5
Northern Flicker	4	7	1		6	3	10	12	25	29	12	50	2	16	17	41	1	16
Pileated Woodpecker		1*(nc)									1							
Horned Lark	6	1					11	4		30		86		3	22	146	24	6
Blue Jay	76	126	23		131	130	71	92	309	282	67	57	49	29	170	229	49	73
American Crow	592	815	380	29	638	703	813	1017hc	1157	1010	358	176	1511	104	1757	1120	200	293
Black-capped Chickadee	399	632	188	8	221	278	419	525	867	320	110	122	104	82	368	380	49	156
Tufted Titmouse		1			14			10	8	74	2	5		17	16	53	9	31
Red-breasted Nuthatch	14	56hc	2		3	28hc	21	22hc	24	35	4	5	8	3	20	5	4	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	51	97	16		25	40	48	73	109	86	10	21	31	23	96	144	21	37
Brown Creeper	15	20	21		2	8	16	40	16		6	7	5	13	58	36	2	12
Carolina Wren	5	6hc	1		1				9	7	4	4		2		3		13
Winter Wren		1							1		cw	2	1					3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	2				15	6		12	2					9	20	2	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet											1							
Eastern Bluebird									4			7			1			
Hermit Thrush		2						1	3									
American Robin	249	1259	78	17	61	1	157	70	424	21	92	32		48	5	20		63
Gray Catbird	1								1									
Northern Mockingbird		1*										1						2
Brown Thrasher								1								1		
Cedar Waxwing	110	236	66			33	704	179	611	39	3	81			47	32		
Northern Shrike	1	1			1		1*								1	1		
European Starling	1695	15822	3500	45	8926	1679	2192	2185hc	5479	6058	1871	2861	1855	3801	3168	2842	769	5303
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	14	2					1	9		3	10			1	3		
Palm Warbler									1*									

Species	WAUK	EVNS	CHI U	CHI L	CALU	MCHE	BARR	FERM	LISL	THOR	JOLI	MOWI	DE KA	ILLI	ROCK	KISH	KYCR	SRSP
Common Yellowthroat							1*				cw							
Northern Cardinal	203	426	141	16	145	99	220	337hc	396	224	80	82	55	40	184	303	66	97
Rufous-sided Towhee					cw				1									
American Tree Sparrow	383	103	13		355	175	320	1098	487	438	149	445	95	113	674	337	28	247
Field Sparrow										17?		1			1			1
Fox Sparrow		1			2			1				3			1			1
Song Sparrow	13	58	5		124	10	35	56	72	60	21	24	22	13	65	34	3	30
Swamp Sparrow	3	3	1		12	13	2	13	31	24	3	6		30	32	10		23
White-throated Sparrow	6	24	9	1	15			27	35	1	5	12		2	3	6		4
White-crowned Sparrow	1	3			7	1		1	20	2		3		2				
Dark-eyed Junco	413	730	204	4	285	208	467	790	992	211	307	400	202	107	410	683	108	421
Lapland Longspur																275		
Snow Bunting	37									1		48		111	60	44	50	
Red-winged Blackbird	562	9	5		5043		1	10	28	2	2	5		1	1	1		14306
Eastern Meadowlark								2	4	8		25						
meadowlark sp.														3				3
Rusty Blackbird			1									50						3
blackbird sp.							1*								1			
Brewer's Blackbird													1*?					
Common Grackle	17	90	4		43	2		8	2	47	7	613		21	cw	1	3	1056
Brown-headed Cowbird	300		1		103				1	4	12	41		16	1	1		5013
Purple Finch	6	4			3	14	35	5	33	3			2	7	2	11	6	
House Finch	144	222	301		198	40	155	89	288	104	120	60	208	7	200	248	29	
Red Crossbill	1																	
Common Redpoll	41	30			cw	3			54	33	100	6		90				
Pine Siskin	19	75	3		5	7	41	81	165	67		40			24	23		10
American Goldfinch	156	299	113	6	185	76	145	212	567	164	41	57	19	28	121	131	40	44
Evening Grosbeak					2													
House Sparrow	761	897	3200	44	880	454	469	515	1128	1227	465	757	205	663	859	1434	321	810
exotics: [Monk Parakeet]	[5]			[21]	[9]													
[Blue-crowned Parakeet]		[1]																
[Ringed-turtle Dove]											[74]	[9]						
Total species	**75**	**77**	**63**	**33**	**73**	**52**	**58**	**67**	**77**	**57**	**62**	**78**	**37**	**66**	**68**	**65**	**37**	**60**
Total individuals	**34436**	**38845hc**	**15729**	**3412**	**36684**	**8873**	**20363**	**24634**	**29592**	**13855**	**8360**	**50670**	**4953**	**22949**	**19690**	**12481**	**2330**	**31426**

					Northern										*Central*				
SPECIES	FREE	WTPN	PRIN	VANP	SCHA	CL IA	PC IA	DA IA	MU IA	MFRV	FGPR	CHAM	HMWD	BLOM	CLLK	DECA	CHIL	PEOR	CHAU
Pied-billed Grebe												2			6	2			6
Horned Grebe														4	4				
NORTHERN GANNET								1*NC											
American White Pelican							1	1											
Double-crested Cormorant							2	2											8
Great Blue Heron	2		10	3		3	1	20	1	7	3	5	3	1	6	7	30	20	36
Tundra Swan						1 sp.													
[Trumpeter Swan]																[3]			
Mute Swan								1											5
Greater White-fronted Goose							1								1				
Snow Goose												7		8	2	75			6
Canada Goose	454	128	195	200		345	320	699	755	1314	136	205	118	2637	1229	1002	2202	1040	1412
Wood Duck						3		2	1							2		4	1
Green-winged Teal						1										4	1		1
American Black Duck			5			23	1	23	14					18	9	9	40	36	78
Mallard	104	22	371	112		1008	153	2703	358	63	3	22	47	870	150	393	1436	460	2291
Northern Pintail															2				9
Blue-winged Teal															1				
Northern Shoveler															6		13	7	7
Gadwall						9	2	5						3	250	13	5	34	136
American Wigeon						2									70				2
Canvasback														2	1			1	17
Redhead								1							25	1	2		
Ring-necked Duck						10	1							16	22	77	2		113
Greater Scaup						1		1								6(nc)			
Lesser Scaup				30		6		2	8					2	11	18	2		12
Oldsquaw						4												2	
White-winged Scoter																		1*	1*
Common Goldeneye			8	25		255	99	61	7		2			2	221	7	117	54	182
Bufflehead							3	1						5	20	2	50		4
Hooded Merganser										2					3	5		2	37
Common Merganser				16		503	55	17	50						16	1	1627	37	1264
Red-breasted Merganser						6		2							15	4			
Ruddy Duck						5								2					7
Turkey Vulture										2			2					2	
Osprey						1*													
Bald Eagle			36	3	5	101	90	90	138					1 (nc)			80	1	77
Northern Harrier	1	1		3	2	1	1		3	1	1	1	2						6
Sharp-shinned Hawk			3	3			1	3	1	3	3	1			2				
Cooper's Hawk	1			1	1	3	2	1	5	2	2	1					2		2
Northern Goshawk				1	1	2			1		1				1				1
accitpiter sp.					1							1			1				
Red-shouldered Hawk							1	2	1	2	1								
Red-tailed Hawk	35	27	45	36	82	19	27	60	38	31	26	21	13	36	36	5	61	45	45
hawk sp.												2							
Rough-legged Hawk	3	3	1	3	1	2		2	5	1		3			3		7	2	8
American Kestrel	21	19	8	20	11	9	16	57	15	15	14	14	11	10	26	7	46	45	17
Merlin						1													
Peregrine Falcon								3											
hawk sp.					1						2								
Gray Partridge				2															

					Northern										*Central*				
SPECIES	FREE	WTPN	PRIN	VANP	SCHA	CL IA	PC IA	DA IA	MU IA	MFRV	FGPR	CHAM	HMWD	BLOM	CLLK	DECA	CHIL	PEOR	CHAU
Ring-necked Pheasant	2		9	10	1	2	1	14	5	18	16	93	42	20	19	8		1	11
Wild Turkey					102		33	3	2	3					8				
Northern Bobwhite								5	5	16					17		12		18
American Coot														12	31	10	1	2	259
Killdeer						10	12		2							1	9	1	1
Common Snipe						1	3	1	1						3	2	1		
Bonaparte's Gull															1				
MEW GULL								1*NC											
Ring-billed Gull	20		36	7		331	55	721	7	2				3	1409	5575	711	994	1047
Herring Gull			100	45		179	27	229	16						25	13	635	115	22
Thayer's Gull																	1		
gull sp																		15	
Rock Dove	381	71	45	106	155	85	261	1239	384	98	110	252	33	213	151	205	155	300	9
Mourning Dove	88	22	49	92	31	25	91	339	288	68	272	92	20	103	94	125	332	139	48
Eastern Screech-Owl			2	5		6	6	7	4	11	17	1	4		13	3	5	1	4
Snowy Owl					cw														
Great Horned Owl	2		2	1	1	17	15	18	5	4	6	9	2	3	24	2	1		5
Barred Owl		1	2			4	2	8	4	4	5				16			4	
Long-eared Owl			1	12		1			1	2	2	2		2					
Northern Saw-whet Owl											1			1 (nc)					
Belted Kingfisher	1	1	7	1	1	1	3	7	5	6	3	4	1	2	6	3	17	10	12
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	18	5	1	4	1	19	7	12	7	16	7	1	4	2	7	40	2	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	20	37	11	14	35	33	63	62	99	81	31	7	15	32	14	104	47	73
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1		1	2		4	2	1	6		1	cw	1		1	3	1		
Downy Woodpecker	28	21	41	45	28	38	71	131	105	105	81	55	20	48	26	34	104	93	55
Hairy Woodpecker	2	7	9	4	3	11	19	29	25	13	13	2		4	11	3	12	17	17
Northern Flicker	2	5	18	6	1	14	24	31	33	45	37	44	9	6	39	28	44	24	77
Pileated Woodpecker			1		1	1		4	2	7	28	1					1	1	7
Eastern Phoebe										1							1		
Horned Lark	40		128	2	16	1	20	2	204	38	254	8	15	19	6	37	17	11	62
Blue Jay	70	73	76	85	212	156	137	245	210	190	176	75	41	66	163	67	241	195	284
American Crow	216	126	542	1885	243	276	332	1440	197	81000	4676	120	76	922	639	278	248	593	210
Black-capped Chickadee	70	81	107	122	65	119	164	638	373				18	50	183	74	324	323	92
Carolina Chickadee										150	172	23	2						
Tufted Titmouse	7	46	42	10	10	31	20	64	79	180	189	11		11	26	45	138	127	61
Red-breasted Nuthatch	12	12	3	22		12	49	26	5	8	7	5	3	12	26	16	3	5	43
White-breasted Nuthatch	25	64	49	25	24	51	29	173	166	77	83	20	13	16	42	13	117	82	39
Brown Creeper	2	10	7	4		9	14	48	2	13	15	10	2	22	7	6	3	10	15
Carolina Wren			2			6	3	10	3	22	27	19	2	6	13	25	20	14	14
House Wren												1							
Winter Wren						1	1	1	2	3	1	4	1		3	1			1
Marsh Wren								1											
Golden-crowned Kinglet		8		5		13	6	9	3	8	6	1	2			1	5		21
Ruby-crowned Kinglet								4	1	3		1		1	4		1	2	3
Eastern Bluebird			6		7		1		5	11	24	1			7		5	2	19
Hermit Thrush											2					1	2		
American Robin			132	210		2	109	42	74	33	4	685	9	3	9	12	298	32	228
Gray Catbird														1(nc)					
Northern Mockingbird										2					2	3	4	1	6
Brown Thrasher		1		1				1							1	2			1
Cedar Waxwing	12			55	233	15	39	50	47	238	15	231		78	3	77	76	30	136
Northern Shrike																	1		

					Northern										*Central*				
SPECIES	**FREE**	**WTPN**	**PRIN**	**VANP**	**SCHA**	**CL IA**	**PC IA**	**DA IA**	**MU IA**	**MERV**	**FGPR**	**CHAM**	**HMWD**	**BLOM**	**CLLK**	**DECA**	**CHIL**	**PEOR**	**CHAU**
Loggerhead Shrike									1										
European Starling	2107	234	907	306	570	737	755	4155	2268	3893	673	2209	73	843	25000	1150	2790	4730	1681
Yellow-rumped Warbler						1			1	2	1	2		1		1	3		
Northern Cardinal	71	40	223	79	165	168	184	695	466	297	334	266	24	106	86	86	280	284	218
Rufous-sided Towhee										1		1		2			1		
American Tree Sparrow	122	26	329	294	900	368	488	226	1085	976	110	108	36	53	155	62	222	167	209
Field Sparrow			1	1				1		5	1				2		1		2
Vesper Sparrow										1									
Savannah Sparrow															1				
Fox Sparrow							1	1					2						
Song Sparrow	7	10	32	12	5	12	37	62	54	53	74	91	6	12	27	28	49	42	28
Lincoln's Sparrow									1		1								
Swamp Sparrow			6	3		3	10	4	15	44	9	9		6	31	17	5	1	13
White-throated Sparrow			10	1	1	1	4	15	13	50		47		63	9	23	3	15	16
White-crowned Sparrow			5	10			10	1	1	7		12	5		1	2	1		
Dark-eyed Junco	238	112	347	256	709	227	471	707	1029	629	482	379	37	109	186	90	421	287	330
Lapland Longspur			2						146	1	1	1							
Snow Bunting			1	22					8		2								
Red-winged Blackbird			2	2		1	1	811	5	8		12		1	303		32	1	1
Eastern Meadowlark			20							24	3		3		1	2	2	1	13
Yellow-headed Blackbird															1				
Rusty Blackbird						1		50				1			5				10
blackbird sp.				200						3		2			100				
Brewer's Blackbird								2											
Common Grackle	1	1				4	3	10	3	2	11	2	11	4	3000	4	8	116	6
Brown-headed Cowbird			6			1	1	30	29	4	16	267	3		1500	2	1	11	
Purple Finch		6	7	9	17	16	2	11	34	32	19	6	2		3	14	11		38
House Finch	106	63	16	44	64	2	91	249	154	214	125	53	24	62	2	54	39	100	
Red Crossbill								2											
Common Redpoll				1						1		cw			4				
Pine Siskin	17	7	15	5		12	2	40	55	36	1	32	6	9	78	16	5	1	24
American Goldfinch	19	45	71	54	90	112	73	146	192	122	108	65	29	36	27	52	216	149	62
Evening Grosbeak						1													
House Sparrow	1047	144	995	350	876	750	1174	2357	1976	864	796	1687	574	388	574	565	1179	1622	558
Eurasian Tree Sparrow									1						1				64
Total Species	**39**	**35**	**57**	**60**	**37**	**76**	**68**	**82**	**75**	**69**	**61**	**60**	**45**	**58**	**86**	**70**	**75**	**63**	**81**
Total Individuals	**5344**	**1475**	**5136**	**4881**	**4654**	**6199**	**5685**	**18947**	**11283**	**91200**	**9301**	**7345**	**1355**	**6955**	**36298**	**10502**	**14682**	**12513**	**11970**

			Central									*South*						
Species	CRLK	SPFD	RUSH	MERE	WMER	QUIN	LINC	BIRD	KASK	RDLK	CROR	CYCR	CALK	UNION	HSLK	COLL	ELSA	PEMR
Red-throated Loon		1nc																
Common Loon										2			cw	1		1		
Pied-billed Grebe		11		1		1		4		9	26	3	6	76	2	1		
Horned Grebe		12hc								7	5		9					
[Eared Grebe]										cw								
Western Grebe																		1
American White Pelican																		20HC
Double-crested Cormorant		1			1			1		14	35		8	2	100hc			8
Great Blue Heron	33	6	1	37	68	3	15	11		65	69		35	143	41	11		45
CATTLE EGRET	1*NC																	
Black-crowned Night-Heron				2*														
Mute Swan											1							
Greater White-fronted Goose														11*HC	8hc			
Snow Goose										420	55	225	200	300hc	4			1165
Ross' Goose										1								
Canada Goose	554	572	458	527	201	565	216	30		11500	17000	625	232	19000	10000	691	1	1094
Wood Duck	2	2		2						10		82	2	46	5			
Green-winged Teal	1					1	8			32		516		30	10			
American Black Duck	68	2		50	42	3				336	33	562	56	96	40			6
Mallard	17216	289	40	11373	612	1153	3	44		2343	503	18553	1457	6000	500	253	42	210
Northern Pintail	7			1	3					9	6	128	59				8	
Blue-winged Teal										1*		4*	cw					
Northern Shoveler	43			1							11	549		76	11	55		211
Gadwall	28	7		2	3					25	58	129	10	600hc	33	9		36
American Wigeon	19	5		20						25	5	90		208	10			
Canvasback				2						1	2	13	31	125hc		6	4	
Redhead										8	cw	1	9	2			6	
Ring-necked Duck	1			14						3065	34	47	262	600HC	4			4
Greater Scaup	1	1																
Lesser Scaup	13	10					2	1		85	35	35	70	21		26		
Oldsquaw		2																
White-winged Scoter																	1	1
Black Scoter										1*								
Surf Scoter	2																	
Common Goldeneye	52	400			33	225		5		205	7	5	47	4	3	79	280	137
Bufflehead	21	16hc				3		3		22	76	7	21	3		7	5	
Common G. x Bufflehead		1*																
Hooded Merganser	6	7		3		3				19	184	6	23	57	9	2		2
Common Merganser	24	15		26	2	3				1	37		250			2		13
Red-breasted Merganser		2								66	6		15					
Ruddy Duck		1						2			4		1	100hc		4		16
duck sp.						100												
Black Vulture												100HC			2hc			
Turkey Vulture						2	51	7		1		115	9		18			
Bald Eagle	28	2		33	167	147			1	3	5	3	1	29	20	3	15	136
Northern Harrier	12			1	1		8	8	7	18	1	31	19	19hc		2	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	2		1				4		8	1	1	4	1				1
Cooper's Hawk	1	1			1	1	2			9		2	1	4		1		
Northern Goshawk	1	1	1															
accipiter sp.								2				1					1	
Red-shouldered Hawk							1	1	2	7	1	9		5	6			
Red-tailed Hawk	29	17	23	49	30	22	54	40	13	80	50	113	51	39	37	21	11	26
Rough-legged Hawk	2		2	1	1	1		3	2	2			1					
Golden Eagle											1			2	1			
American Kestrel	16	30hc	2	21	10	28	22	35	23	75	14	99	15	38	24	39	1	18
Merlin				1														
hawk sp.						2		3				8				6		
Ring-necked Pheasant	11	4			22	1		2		2			1					2
Wild Turkey	27		47			1					12			1			3	11

			Central									*South*						
Species	CRLK	SPFD	RUSH	MERE	WMER	QUIN	LINC	BIRD	KASK	RDLK	CROR	CYCR	CALK	UNION	HSLK	COLL	ELSA	PEMR
Northern Bobwhite	21	30		12	15		4	63		35	55	40	58	1	7	17		28
American Coot	3	5		10				165		73	99	6	103	2500HC		20		
Killdeer					4		9			51	15	147		163hc	467HC			22
Least Sandpiper															3HC			
Common Snipe		4			2									23	13			
American Woodcock										1		1						
Bonaparte's Gull		225hc								500	70		48	2hc		2		
Ring-billed Gull	161	4000hc	2	37	209	465	12	1		2327	149	4	20000HC	6000hc	1200	2053	75	2962
Herring Gull	12	25		4	5	101				5	68		16	15	3	29		5
Lesser Black-backed Gull		1*nc																
gull sp						75		1				2				100		
Rock Dove	36	170	19	29	219	453	148	77	9	91	23	34	23	30	43	171	3	16
Mourning Dove	6	497	2	15	44	83	128	377	85	108	67	215	40	398	300	183	6	13
Barn Owl												6						
Eastern Screech-Owl		8		11	4					22	2	2	2	16	17hc			
Great Horned Owl	2	29hc	1	3	7			4		14	3	12	14	7	3	2		1
Barred Owl		2			3	1				8	1	14	8	4	2	1		
Long-eared Owl								5		1*(nc)			1					
Short-eared Owl	1					1				1		23						
Northern Saw-whet Owl					1													
Belted Kingfisher	2	11	1	12	4	5	2	1		8	7	10	10	24	12	2	1	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	6	9	9	2	52		56	40	9	14	14	13	6	27	13	4	1	40
Red-bellied Woodpecker	68	76	24	55	38	49	56	46	19	80	57	86	46	150	67	22	28	58
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	4		2		2	2				4	7		32	12		2	4
Downy Woodpecker	57	82	42	42	54	52	48	42	21	71	44	65	31	113	52	25	13	35
Hairy Woodpecker	24	17		13	14	9	4	9	2	22	8	45	5	37	15			4
Northern Flicker	42	104	9	38	77	9	20	11	16	75	43	112	26	159	91	27	5	27
Pileated Woodpecker	7	6		8	10	5	1			6	13	34	3	81	18		3	8
Eastern Phoebe										1*					1			
Horned Lark	6	3		12	5	5	31	334	48	197	9	154	97	62	402	22		32
Blue Jay	80	241	103	146	160	160	142	244	143	527	249	113	296	208	166	61	45	111
American Crow	534	1001	267	11030	5620	166	96	136	87	329	112	100	66	170	61	257	35	154
Fish Crow															1			
Black-capped Chickadee	101	220	112	102	160	107		7	20							25	65	84
Carolina Chickadee			6				72	95		165	153	128	80	222	111	14		
Tufted Titmouse	40	106	53	46	28	89	72	82	34	62	141	157	44	127	101	20	65	51
Red-breasted Nuthatch	31	22	1	53	10	5		2	1	27	46	4	10	90hc	48			
White-breasted Nuthatch	44	42	33	40	49	44	28	22	3	15	18	43	12	100	52	7	12	24
Brown Creeper	10	28	5	6	2	4	5	4	2	10	6	11	4	27	15	2		2
Carolina Wren	26	43	2	25	2	18	9	12	3	85	22	69	40	86	79	16	4	26
House Wren		1				1							1		2*			
Winter Wren	3	4		2		1				7	2	2	1	25	13			
Marsh Wren										1*								
Golden-crowned Kinglet	8	13		15	11	5				77	20	82	17	132	25	3		3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3								4	3		1		45hc	27		1	
[Blue-gray Gnatcatcher]													2-cw-nd					
Eastern Bluebird	7	11	1	29	7	4	60	17	14	34	89	98	8	65	90	20		35
Hermit Thrush										3		5		33	33			
American Robin	26	89	3	114	66	4	10	28	18	73	405	53079	227	400	100	112	49	19
Gray Catbird		1								1*								
Northern Mockingbird	5	5		3		1	1	49	14	26	31	34	10	16	39	19	4	6
Brown Thrasher		1		1					3	7		2	1	3	3			
American Pipit										7*					1*			
Cedar Waxwing	101	270hc		7	104	15	12	17		49	291	40	31	13	418hc		34	4
Loggerhead Shrike					2			9	5	8	5	12	7	8	13			1
European Starling	5935	1339	380	931	658	708	5601	2927	4867	536000	4397	3942	1133	1350	1950	2004	259	656
Nashville Warbler														1*				
Cape May Warbler		cw*				1*												
Yellow-rumped Warbler		5		1						1	9	5		190	58			

			Central									*South*						
Species	**CRLK**	**SPFD**	**RUSH**	**MERE**	**WMER**	**QUIN**	**LINC**	**BIRD**	**KASK**	**RDLK**	**CROR**	**CYCR**	**CALK**	**UNION**	**HSLK**	**COLL**	**ELSA**	**PEMR**
Pine Warlber											4HC-nd							
Black-and-white Warbler		1*																
Common Yellowthroat		cw											1*	5*HC				
Northern Cardinal	148	337	95	215	178	206	176	260	154	609	268	408	257	325	505	87	163	162
Indigo Bunting										1*								
Rufous-sided Towhee							1	2	2	41	17	3	3	10	22			
American Tree Sparrow	143	289	33	459	741	32	65	17	17	109	9	64	82	62	15	25		27
Field Sparrow	2	3	2	8			7	9		70	24	19	2	7	121	3		6
Vesper Sparrow					1*													
Savannah Sparrow										14		2	2	4	1			
Le Conte's Sparrow										12			3					
Fox Sparrow		2			2					4	4	1	3	5	7			
Song Sparrow	41	108	5	75	27	12	38	21	3	411	35	95	79	324	239	32	5	30
Lincoln's Sparrow															1*			
Swamp Sparrow	8	37		22	2	1	49	10		137	1	34	37	490HC	81	3		15
White-throated Sparrow	3	53	2	11		13	23	11	3	278	54	74	135	134	281	17	40	13
White-crowned Sparrow		9	8	3	1	1	17	10	3	33	6	43	17	62	51	12		41
Harris Sparrow													1nd					
Dark-eyed Junco	277	500	194	339	495	169	272	135	208	354	468	201	229	222	324	82	143	153
Lapland Longspur	7			1						15		7	2		1			
Snow Bunting																		
Red-winged Blackbird	14	1		206	1		25	86	2	1037000	8721	4570	11	1800	75000	877		1
Eastern Meadowlark			1	9			7	69	56	124	23	426	18	63	201			
meadowlark sp.								1										
Rusty Blackbird	240						200			2050		1500		230	12			
blackbird sp.								2				15000				1582		
Common Grackle	54	4	129	1	5	2	593	32	87	1617000	5583	51642	350	4300	250000	1007		51
Brown-headed Cowbird	82	27		1		1	187	2		5530	112	428	34	250	1500	44		
Purple Finch	27	7	46	1	14		4	2		4	86	42	9	4	3			12
House Finch		87hc	21		1	30	51	67		92	53	36	43	10	79	17	8	48
Common Redpoll			2															
Pine Siskin	3	71	10			26		2		18	23		2	1			3	
American Goldfinch	139	101	358	85	54	38	53	78	110	66	35	91	55	73	113	90	48	76
Evening Grosbeak										4(nc)								
House Sparrow	663	579	274	1033	520	723	493	934	32	356	26	120	319	95	343	338	257	585
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	81	67	99	197	2	14										15	14	75
Total species	**79**	**86**	**45**	**73**	**64**	**63**	**55**	**64**	**41**	**107**	**87**	**90**	**91**	**95**	**89**	**62**	**43**	**67**
Total individuals	**27564**	**12453**	**2928**	**27690**	**10887**	**6181**	**9272**	**6783**	**6152**	**3224037**	**40573**	**155827**	**27124**	**49270**	**345935**	**10690**	**1769**	**8893**

Birding the Middlefork River Valley

Part II: Kennekuk Cove County Park

by Steven D. Bailey

Kennekuk Cove County Park is probably the most heavily birded area in Vermilion County, and for good reason. This 2,700-acre park provides great birding opportunities along with a wide variety of recreational facilities without sacrificing its natural character. The park also encompasses virtually every habitat to be found in east-central Illinois, including grassy and old fields as well as an ongoing prairie restoration projects. The forests are equally diverse. Mature, bottomland forests are found along the Middlefork River while mature, wooded ravines are located in the uplands. Successional areas, good for migrants, abound between the fields and woodlands. The park also contains 170-acre Lake Mingo, as well as several small ponds and a fairly large restored marsh complex.

Kennekuk Cove County Park has recently become well known for its breeding birds. Vermilion County birders were lucky to find the entire confines of the park inside one of the atlas blocks of the recently completed Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas Project. We are proud of the fact that this one quadrant had the highest number of confirmed breeding species of any one quadrant in the state with 107, and four others possible. These included many species rare and/or previously unrecorded as breeding in the county.

Probably my best contribution to the atlas project was also my luckiest. I had come home for the weekend from southern Illinois where I was spending much of the spring and summer working on a bird research project. I thought I would hike the new marsh complex at the county park one more time that spring hoping to get a late, migrant Least Bittern for my year list. However at the late date, May 30, I didn't really expect to find one. Much to my delight, just after entering the marsh, I flushed my quarry. And much to my surprise, when I waded over to where the bird had flushed, there lay its humble abode, and a first county record.

> Flocks numbering in the thousands of Lapland Longspurs are not uncommon in early spring and late fall.

Birding at Kennekuk Cove County Park begins immediately as you pass through the park gates. During the breeding season, Eastern Meadowlarks flush from the roadside, and bluebirds, responding nicely to a well-maintained nest box program, are a common sight along park roads. Henslow's Sparrow, formerly one of the main avian attractions of the park, has gradually declined to the point where the species is seldom found. However, it is worth listening for the bird's peculiar insect-like, two-syllable song as you drive along the fields from the entrance to the visitor center.

The successional fields to the south and the shrubby hedgerow immediately to the west of the building are good for Bell's Vireo. Just south of the visitor center, head west a short distance to the first road on your left. As you travel south, watch and listen along the road edges and nearby successional fields for various migrants in spring and fall, especially flycatchers, vireos, and warblers. The large oaks in the yard and woods surrounding the residence house where the road jogs west are good for several breeding species including Eastern Wood-Pewee and Summer Tanager. Continuing west as you make your way to the parking area, the road edges remain good for migrants. The road ends at Lookout Point Picnic area. A trail continues west to Lookout Point through forest and successional habitat good for summer resi-

Long-eared Owls can be spotted in pine plantations from late fall through early spring at Horsehoe Pond near Kennekuk Cove County Park in the Middlefork River Valley. Steve Bailey took this photo of a Long-eared Owl at a pine plantation north of Higginsville in May 1986.

dent species such as Wood Thrush, Carolina Wren, and Scarlet Tanager.

The trail forms the southern boundary of the park, but much of the land to the south is being leased by the conservation district from Illinois Power Co., so feel free to explore the edges of the cultivated fields just south of the trail for nesting Lark Sparrows which have become regular here. Continue to the bluffs overlooking the Middlefork River. At times this area provides a good vantage from which to view migrating hawks, especially in the fall. Also look and listen for Northern Parula, Cerulean, and Yellow-throated Warblers during nesting season down in the treetops along the river.

To see a totally different group of birds, retrace your path back to the T-intersection with the main road west of the visitor center. Turn left (west) and proceed to the large parking lot near the nature center. Park, then walk north along a gravel road to the north of the parking lot. You may want to bring boots. The marsh complex just east of the road, and farther north, just west of the road, attracts a wide variety of water birds, including Pied-billed Grebe, both bitterns, several herons, Canada Goose (nesting), 18 species of duck, Osprey, Sora and Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, coot, Sandhill Crane, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, Black Tern, Willow and Alder Flycatchers, all six swallows, Sedge and Marsh Wrens, American Pipit, and LeConte's Sparrow. A large list can be tallied in this one area of the park on a good day, especially in early spring.

To get to an area with wintering species, go back to the visitor center and turn left. Watch for the sign for Horseshoe Pond and park. Woodland Prairie Trail starts just north of the parking lot and leads to a small red and white pine plantation. In the pines be alert for Short and, especially, Long-eared Owls which have been almost regular here from late fall through early spring. Accipiters also hunt and roost here, as well as several passerines including both kinglets, juncos, Purple Finch and, once, Red Crossbills.

Lake Mingo is always worth a check, especially before the fishermen cover the lake. There are several sites from which to view the lake. The best are near the dam side where the lake is widest. Bald Eagles and Osprey are not uncommon in migration; the many large dead trees along the lake's edge provide excellent perches. Other likely birds include Common Loon; Pied-billed and Horned Grebes; Double-crested Cormorant; several herons, including Great Egret and Black-crowned Night-Heron; Snow Goose, up to 20 species of duck, coot, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls, Caspian and Forster's Terns, Belted Kingfisher, and all six swallows. Rarities found there include Eared Grebe, Tundra and Mute Swans, Surf Scoter, and Golden Eagle.

Several good birding spots are outside the park as well. All are on private property. Nevertheless, most can be birded from the road, especially flooded fields in the spring, which are good for shorebirds and longspurs. Twenty-eight species of shorebirds have been found in such fields in the valley, including annual flocks of Lesser Golden Plover that number in the thousands (spring), some of the biggest flocks of this species to be found anywhere. Other interesting shorebirds include American Avocet, Willet, Ruddy Turnstone, White-rumped, Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and Wilson's

and Red-necked Phalaropes.

One of my best finds ever for the county, a Curlew Sandpiper, was discovered in a flooded field. Flocks numbering in the thousands of Lapland Longspurs are not uncommon in early spring and late fall. The rare Smith's Longspur is found yearly in good numbers in fallow, short-grass fields or in the stubble of cultivated fields, usually where these fields are wet and contain foxtail.

Visitor Information

To reach Kennekuk County Park, take the Martin Luther King Drive (also U.S. Highway 150) exit (210) off Interstate 74 near Danville. Bear right, heading east on U.S. 150, to the first stoplight. Turn left onto Henning Road and continue north 4.7 miles to the park entrance.

Cedar Hill Visitor Center provides information and park maps. There also are concession stands at Lake Mingo and many picnic areas.

For more information about Kennekuk Cove County Park, write Vermilion County Conservation District, Box 215, Danville, IL 61832, or call 217-442-1691.

Editor's Note:

For Part I of this story, see Meadowlark: 3:1. Steve Bailey welcomes your correspondence regarding birding the Middlefork River Valley complex. You can reach him at: R.R. 3, 9 Riverside Court, Danville, IL 61832.

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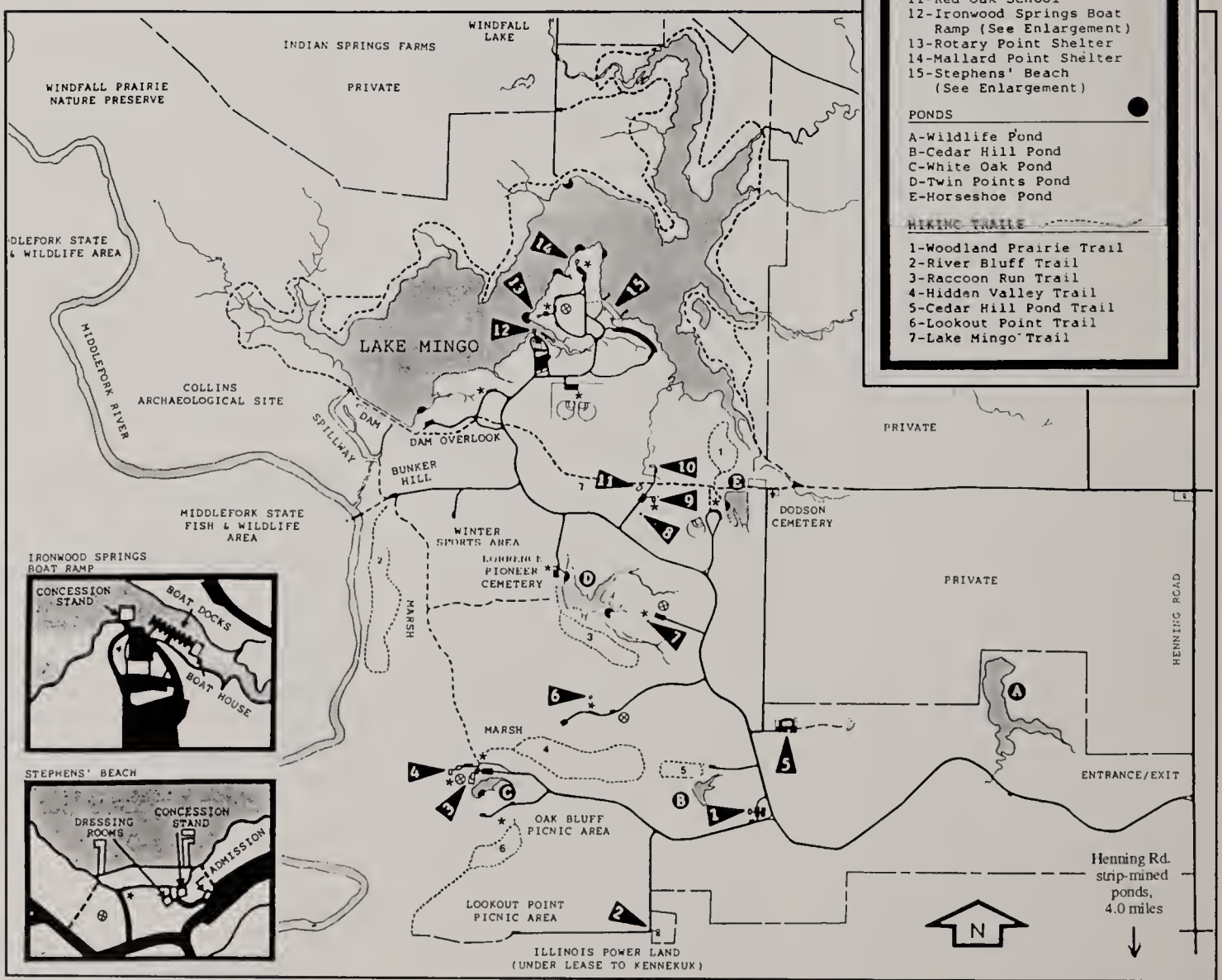
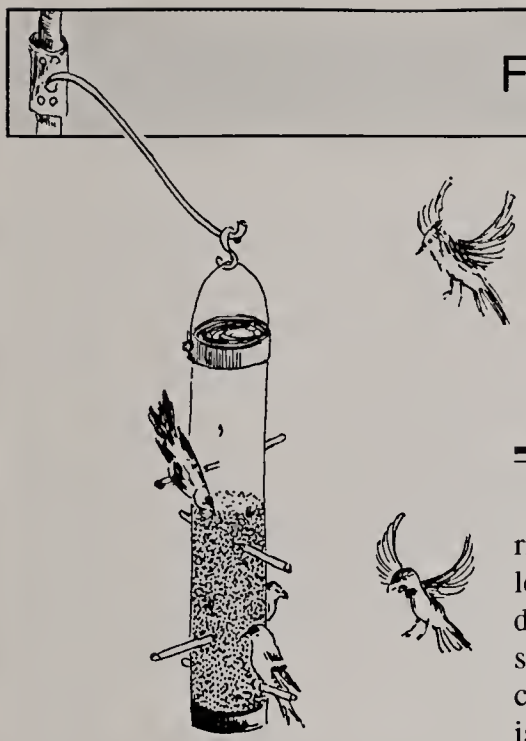
KENNEKUK COUNTY PARK





Brown Thrasher Winters at a Chicago Feeder

by Christine Philip

10 January 1994 - I saw a Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum)* on a feeder eating seed in the "magic" courtyard at the Fourth Presbyterian Church at Delaware St. and Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago across from the John Hancock Building. Could it be the same thrasher I noticed in the courtyard in late November and on and off through 25 December?

How could this bird be surviving the winter blasts at night?

Berries, albeit shriveled, still hung on the hawthorne trees. Icicles dripped with water. Yesterday, I had also noticed many trees east of Michigan Ave. still holding their berries and crab apples.

The courtyard is very small. In the center are two large trees completely ringed from top to bottom with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker holes. Fairly dense shrubs grow in two corners and some grape-leaved ivy climbs the church's stone walls. The courtyard is open only on the east side where it faces the Hancock Building; thus it is reasonably sheltered from the wind.

This courtyard almost always has an unusual bird in it. But a Brown Thrasher in winter? It would have to leave soon or perish.

18 January - Temperatures dipped to 65 degrees below zero with the windchill. The Brown Thrasher at the church survived. It sat still, conserving energy and following the progress of the sun as it moved around the courtyard.

19 January - I found the thrasher asleep in the sun. Glowing amber.

20 January - The thrasher opened one eye and then opened its mouth which was strawberry pink colored inside. I actually saw its tongue.

28 January - I returned from a nasty business trip to Boston and New York. A major ice storm pelted down on the way back. The Brown Thrasher was still in fine shape at the church despite a 2-inch layer of ice on top of everything and slush on top of that. There were still three White-throated Sparrows there, too.

I had expected to find a stiff body at the base of the church wall. I worried that the ice coating would be frozen solid on all surfaces. How could this bird be surviving the winter blasts at night? There was no foliage left on the shrubs to offer any shelter.

10 February, 18 February - Brown Thrasher was fine.

28 February - Some of the snow and ice melted from the base of the church walls. The Brown Thrasher looked bedraggled, but it was on the grass and under the bushes, perhaps foraging for food.

10 March - I returned from a California business trip. The Brown Thrasher was gone.

11 March - Still no Brown Thrasher. The church caretaker, who cleans winter debris from under the shrubs, said he hadn't found a bird's body anywhere.

I hoped this bird had flown free at last. From now on, I'll wonder if every Brown Thrasher I see in the magic churchyard is the wintering bird of 1994. And I will always remember how welcome in the snow this bird was to me throughout the long, cold winter.

Christine Philip
4946 Douglas Rd., #102
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Feeder station drawing by Denis Kania

State Winter and Christmas Bird Count Record for Northern Gannet

I awoke early 19 December 1993, looking forward to a great Quad Cities Christmas Bird Count. The temperatures were to be rather pleasant for a winter count with a predicted low of 17 degrees and a high of 34 degrees F.

After morning birding in our standard area, we covered a few high priority areas along the Mississippi River including Lock and Dam No. 15, Ben Butterworth Parkway, and Sunset Marina at the west end of Rock Island.

Sunset Marina contains mixture of sloughs adjacent to the Mississippi River and the mouth of the Rock River and is well-known for holding good numbers of birds and rarities, especially during the winter. Located near the lock and dams, the marina has open water in all but the most extreme weather. An American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) had been seen at the marina for more than a week, so we set out for the marina to search for that species and other unusual ducks and gulls. Little did we know how exciting that trip to the marina would be.

As we turned the car into the parking lot next to the slough where the pelican had been observed, I could see a large congregation of gulls, mostly Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) with a few Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*). They were chasing shad, but suddenly departed and flew to evade the wrath of a larger diving bird. Immediately, I could see a huge, dark, mottled bird zoom through the gulls and steal a shad from one of them. The bird flew back above the feeding group of gulls and swallowed the shad. The bird then hovered, watched, and waited for the next gull to catch a shad.

We were looking at either an immature Northern Gannet (*Sula bassanus*) or a Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*). My brother and I had just recently observed both gannets along the Texas coast. The family has a unique jizz and silhouette. While looking at the bird, our group carefully began pointing out the different field identification characters. My brother, Corey Blevins, noticed the long, slender, wedge shape of the tail and the white chest and belly. My father, Lewis Blevins, pointed out the massive size of the light gray bill. I could see a faint but distinct single white line running the length of the underwing. The fourth member of our party, Dale Dickenson, noted the whitish mottling on the head and nape. The feet, which were quite large and webbed, were constantly being used as rudders. Putting these field marks together and adding the size and dominance over the gulls; especially when compared with the Herring Gulls, the group eliminated Masked Booby and agreed on Northern Gannet. A description of this bird is on file with the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC).

We enjoyed watching this pelagic bird dive into the pack of gulls, easily remove shad, then return to hover over the gulls.

Suddenly, an immature Bald Eagle came swooping in on the gannet. The gannet, nearly the size of the eagle, fought back, hoarsely squawking. The two battled in the air,dispersing the gulls back to the main river channel. The gannet seemed to easily outfly the eagle.

The gulls were by now frightened off, and the gannet finally decided to head upriver. The eagle chased the gannet for about 2.5 to 3 miles. We watched the birds until they disappeared from view.

We learned later that two other Northern Gannet sightings had occurred in northeastern Illinois one month earlier (Brock 1994). Pucelik (1983-84) discovered the only Illinois record, an inland bird seen 19-20 November 1983 by multiple observers at Powerton Lake, Tazewell County, adjacent to the Illinois River. Besides a questionable North Dakota record mentioned by DeSante and Pyle (1986), our Mississippi River record may be one of the westernmost sightings for this maritime species in the Midwest.

— Brian L. Blevins,
2003 E. 12th St.,
Davenport, Iowa 52803

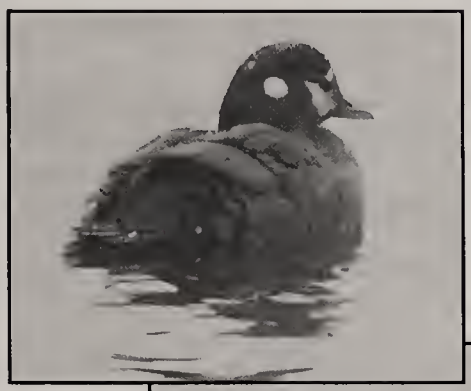
Black Scoter, 20 Jan. 1994, Springfield, one of 27 species of ducks seen there during the winter season. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

27 Species of Ducks in Sangamon County

From 1 January to 15 March 1994, I recorded 27 species of ducks in Sangamon County. Many days, 20 species of ducks could be seen. High counts were 21 species 19 February and 22 species 6 March.

Some Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*) had been seen in December 1993, but the rare ducks really did not start to appear until 1 January 1994, when a Black Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) was discovered at Lake Springfield. Clark Olson and I saw this immature male off the golf course. Fifteen species of ducks were seen that day, including Redheads (*Aythya americana*), Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), and Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), all of which are usually difficult to record in winter. The majority of ducks, several hundred each, were Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) and Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*).

The last of the three mergansers was added on 3 January, when a male Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) appeared at Lake Springfield. On 5 January, two male Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) were at Lake Springfield. I identified more Greater Scaup this winter than ever before. Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), another difficult winter duck, was seen 7 January at Sangchris State Park. Then, a rather dull-looking White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) appeared 11 January at Lake Springfield.



Harlequin Duck, 16 Jan. 1994, Springfield, one of 27 species of ducks seen there during the winter season. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

The moderately mild weather changed in the next few days. I recorded the temperature changes in my notes: Jan. 14 - very cold, 5 degrees, N wind, -30 wind chill; January 15 - very cold, -11 degrees to a high of -3 degrees F. By 16 January, most of Lake Springfield was frozen except the area around the warm water outlet. All of the other areas with shallower water were definitely frozen; even Lake Sangchris, a warm-water lake, was mostly frozen. When this happens I know all available waterfowl must come into the warm-water area.

Immature male King Eider, 9 Jan. 1994, Kane County. Photo by Annalee Fjellberg.

I was at a small inlet on the west side of Lake Springfield, which had large numbers of ducks and geese packed into it, when I spied a small, dark, chunky duck with white spots on its face. It was a female **Harlequin Duck** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). This was my 20th species of duck for the year. Dennis Oehmke appeared soon after that and began taking photographs. Also in that small inlet were the Black Scoter and the White-winged Scoter.

Later in January, I added a Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) at Washington Park and Oehmke found a Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) at the same spot on the 28th. Plus, a Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) was at Lake Springfield on the 29th. That made 23 species of ducks in January. The rarities hung around, but they were not always easy to find. A birder came from as far as Louisiana to see the Harlequin Duck, but we were unable to find it that day. The Harlequin Duck was last seen 12 March.

On 2 February, a female Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) arrived at Lake Springfield. It was warming up some and Lake Springfield was opening when I found a Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) and a different White-winged Scoter on 7 February. Several times, I tried to see all three scoters in one day (they were there), but I was never successful.

These scoters and other waterfowl may have been in central Illinois because of zebra mussels, abundant in the Illinois River valley. However, the mussels have not yet been found in Lake Springfield; so it is more probable that the freeze-up brought the ducks.

Two other rarities were seen the first half of March. Actually, I had seen a female goldeneye with an all pinkish-orange bill on 18 February at Lake Springfield, but it was diving so much, I could not get the other field marks I needed to confirm it was a **Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Bucephala islandica*). On 4 March, Kevin Richmond and Louise Augustine told me they had rediscovered the goldeneye, and the bird's field marks seen through their Questars clinched the Barrow's Goldeneye identification. That evening, I studied the yellow-billed goldeneye for more than an hour. The head shape, with shaggy nape and triangular, bright, pinkish-orange bill and a panel and a half of white on the wing made it a Barrow's Goldeneye.

I've looked for 24 years at all the widgeons I could find for a **Eurasian Widgeon** (*Ana penelope*). On the Ides of March at Buckhart, I finally saw a beautiful drake for my first county record and the 27th species of duck for the year. The Eurasian Widgeon looked most like a brightly-marked Redhead. Oehmke photographed it the same day.

I also saw during this period a hybrid male Common Goldeneye x Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) and a hybrid female Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser at Lake Springfield, and an albino female Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) which wintered at Sangchris State Park.

Twenty-seven species of ducks is more than I usually record in an entire year.

- H. David Bohlen,
Illinois State Museum, 1920 S. 10 1/2 St., Springfield, IL 62703

King Eider in Kane County

While birding the Tekawitha Woods Forest Preserve in Kane County 2 January 1994, I was attracted by the sounds of large numbers of Canada Geese. This investigation provided worthwhile since I observed more than 500 Canada Geese, 100 Mallards, 75 Common Goldeneye, and a pair of Hooded Mergansers. Upon my return, I observed an unusual duck swimming alone at the downstream end of

the unfrozen portion of the river. Although the unusual bill configuration strongly suggested an eider, I considered this highly improbable and decided to review the various reference materials prior to committing to an identification based on bill shape alone and field marks at quite a distance.

Returning the next morning, I happily found the bird still there and much closer. The appearance matched descriptions for an immature male King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) fairly well. The principal exception was the upper breast, which was soft gray, with some evidence of molting to white. Most field guides depict the breast of an immature male King Eider as being pure white. The symmetrical orange bill, white eye ring, and thin, white arc behind the eye were plainly visible.

The eider proved very cooperative and remained in the same general vicinity until 17 January, allowing observation by many interested birders. I observed it almost daily.

The King Eider spent most of the time in the river and was timed in frequent dives of between 8 and 13 seconds in shallow water. Dives were often followed by wing stretching or short periods of preening. The bird would rest on the edges of ice islands at mid-river, occasionally with Canada Geese, but usually alone. This eider did not associate with Mallards and on several occasions, behaved aggressively by swimming toward an individual Mallard with bill and head thrust forward. The Mallards would always back off from the more aggressive eider.

This immature male King Eider was a good find for all of us fortunate enough to have been out to see it. The eider was particularly rewarding for me as I am a newcomer to Illinois and the discovery put me directly in touch with the local birding community as well as led to membership in the Illinois Ornithological Society.

— Roy Netherton, 1201 Thoroughbred Circle, St, Charles, IL 60147

Chicago Area's first winter Indigo Bunting

Early 3 January 1994, I was performing the mundane morning ritual of washing dishes and drinking coffee when I looked out my garden box kitchen window to see an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). The bird was hopping on my deck eating cracked corn and mixed bird seed I had strewn out a night earlier. I immediately recognized the female immature plumage.

I took the following detailed description. The bird was between goldfinch and junco sized. Its bill was grayish with some orangish yellow at the basal one-third of the lower mandible. The bird showed a plain rusty brown face with a beady black eye and no supercilium. The crown was brownish with some fine combing of blackish streaks. The bird had a whitish throat with a fine but noticeable gray malar stripe. Underparts were white. Some fine brownish-gray streaking covered the breast. The back was brownish with some fine ruddy streaking. Wing coverts were brownish with only slight buffy edgings as wingbars. The forked tail was dark brownish. I later made a colored-pencil sketch of the bird which is on file with IORC.

Unfortunately, the bird remained at our home for only one hour and 15 minutes. At approximately 10:30 a.m. a Cooper's Hawk had arrived and was perched immediately over two hanging bird feeders. Needless to say this predator's arrival scattered my feeder birds including the bunting. Unfortunately the bunting never reappeared despite several searches of the neighborhoods near my home in southern Lake County.

This species normally does not linger in North American during fall migration. It migrates to Mexico and Central and South America by early November. This is the first Chicago area winter record for the species. Mlodinow (1984) listed no winter records for this species. A search of the literature indicates that Indigo Buntings do occasionally show up in southern Illinois in winter (Bohlen 1989). However, there are very few late fall records for central and northern Illinois; in fact, the latest northern date for the species is 15 November in Winnebago County (Chapel 1993). Wisconsin has recorded only one winter record of an Indigo Bunting (Calumet County) (Robbins 1991).

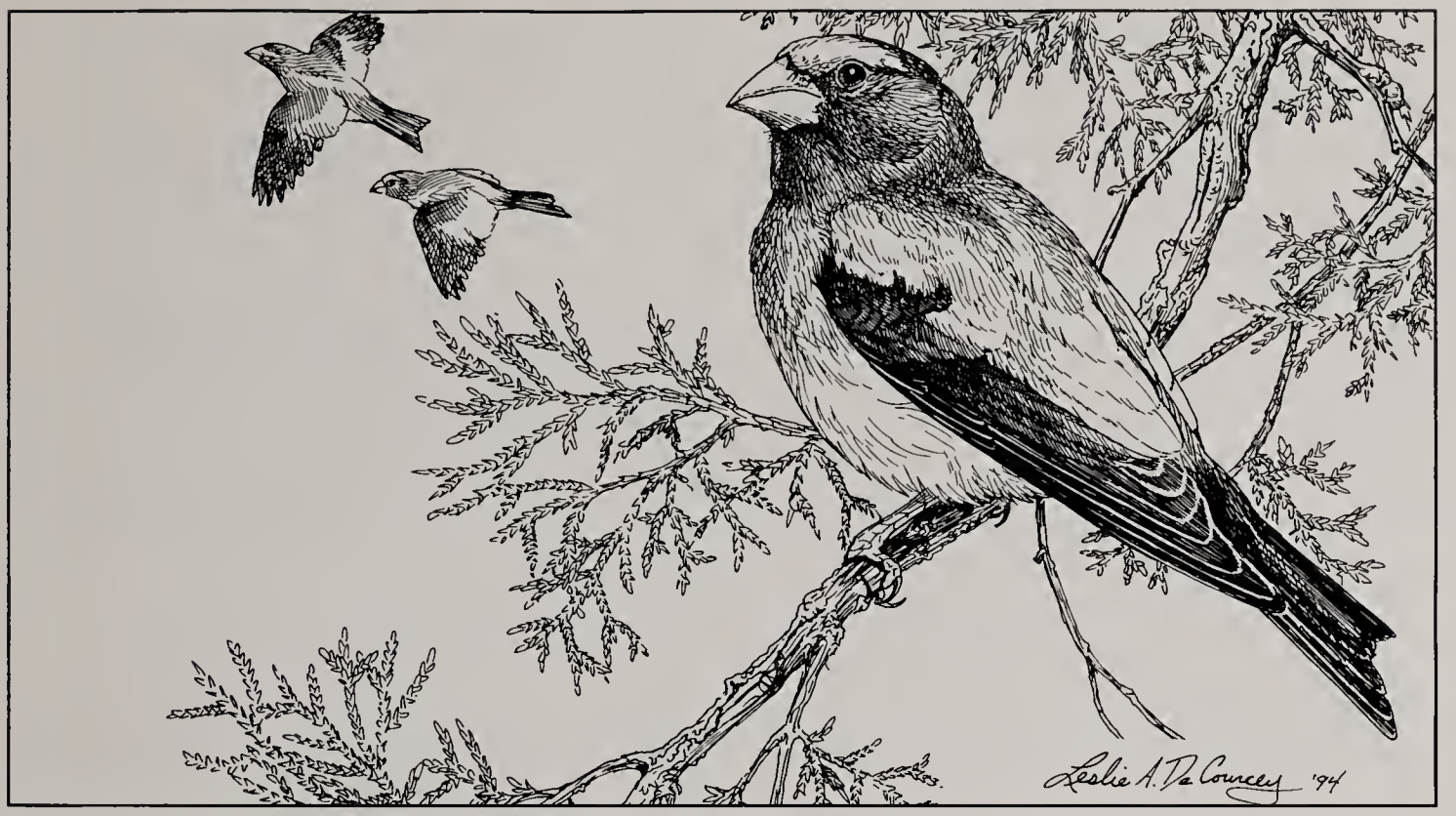
— David B. Johnson, 504 Crown Point Drive, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Hoary Redpoll in DuPage County

Toward the end of January 1994, my co-worker, Bill Bixby, informed me that Common Redpolls (*Carduelis flammea*) were visiting his Hanover Park thistle feeder. Since redpolls were showing up at feeders all over the Chicago area, except for my thistle feeder, this report was not all that surprising. On 2 February, Bixby decided there was also a Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*) at his feeder. I pointed out that this was highly unlikely and mentioned how difficult it is to tell the two redpolls apart, unless you find a hoary of the more or less "pure" variety.

Although Bixby had never seen one before, he remained convinced there was a Hoary Redpoll in his backyard. I argued that half the observers who find Common Redpolls at their feeder decide that one is a Hoary Redpoll. It is a form of wish fulfillment. Bixby then reminded me that I had not believed him two years ago when he said he found a Harris' Sparrow. I had to admit he had been right about the sparrow and I agreed to check out the mystery redpoll.

On Sunday, 6 February, Mike Madsen and I spent all morning watching redpolls at thistle feeders in Hanover Park. During the first hour, we saw six to eight Common Redpolls, none of which looked out of the ordinary. Then, after a period of about 15 minutes without any redpolls, a single redpoll landed on the nearest feeder. Right away, we could see this bird had a very different look. The main difference was its overall lighter coloring. Our bird's back was much paler than the backs of any of the Common Redpolls seen this day. There were two fine, continuous streaks along the flanks. Although the streaks were not broken, they were very faint and much thinner than the



Evening Grosbeaks. Drawing by Leslie A. DeCourcey.

streaking on the other redpolls. The stripes were the width of a line drawn with a fine tip pen. At first, we thought the rump was completely white and the white extended fairly far up the back. Later, we saw two or three faint marks on the rump near the tail. However, you had to look long and hard to notice these marks at all. One thing we were positive about was that the undertail coverts were completely white. There were no marks there at all, not even faint marks, as seen on the lower rump.

The redpoll stayed on the feeder for about five minutes. We waited another three hours, but it never returned. Since our bird never had any Common Redpolls with it on the feeder at the same time, we were unable to make a direct comparison concerning bill size and shape. But our overall impression was that our bird's bill was smaller, with a "pushed-in" look. Bixby saw this bird again two days later in the company of several Common Redpolls. He believed our bird's bill was smaller than the other redpolls and confirmed the "pushed-in" look we had seen.

I have seen two Hoary Redpolls with large winter flocks of Common Redpolls in Duluth, Minn., and the tour leaders from WINGS pointed out Hoary Redpolls when I was in Alaska. Our DuPage County bird looked as good as the Hoary Redpolls I have seen farther north. The field guides and articles I have on Hoary Redpoll identification (Balch 1978, Granlund 1994) agree on field marks, but disagree on which is most important.

Madsen, Bixby, and I think the pure white undertail coverts, the almost white rump, the very pale back and overall coloring, and the smaller bill make our bird a good candidate for being a Hoary Redpoll. Our description is on file with IORC.

The downside of all this is that now I will have to listen to "I told you so!" from Bixby concerning both Harris' Sparrow and Hoary Redpoll. I guess it's worth it.

— Alan Stokie 174 E. Kathleen Dr., Park Ridge, IL 60068

Editor's note: Field identification of Hoary Redpolls is extremely difficult. Even if a suspected Hoary Redpoll is in the hand, bill measurements in combination with other plumage characters often have to be taken to make an identification conclusive. Birders should try to obtain photographs of all suspected Hoary Redpolls in the state. Birders are also urged to read the articles on Hoary Redpoll identification by Balch and Granlund.

110 Evening Grosbeaks in southeastern Illinois

The only remarkable thing about 3 February 1994 was the weather forecast. Despite a bitterly cold dawn, the temperature would eventually reach 50 degrees F. under sunny skies, a welcome change after the recent sub-freezing days. My husband, Gary DeNeal, went outside early to tend the feeders and count the Evening Grosbeaks (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) that had brightened our yard (and our psyches) since 1 January 1994 with their tropical yellow, white, and black plumage. The females and immatures are more drably-colored resembling gigantic female Eastern Goldfinches. The bill is stout, conical, and straw-colored until spring, when it changes to a striking apple green.

The grosbeaks took their time venturing from the east side of Womble Mountain in southeastern Saline County where my neighbor Calvin Cummins had first discovered them 15 November 1993. I rushed over to see about 40 of the cardinal-sized birds as they feasted noisily on dogwood berries at the edge of Calvin's yard. By mid-December, the flock increased to about 40 individuals.

After 10 Evening Grosbeaks found our feeders 1 January 1994, our flock steadily grew, but we suspected we were sharing Calvin Cummins' birds. When we had a huge number of birds at our feeders, a phone call to Cummins revealed he had very few. Luckily, a few grosbeaks found other feeders in the neighborhood besides ours.

By late January, as the dawn din of grosbeak roll call indicated, even more were lured to our feeders. The birds were far easier to tally at sunrise when they perched in the tops of the oak and walnut trees surrounding our yard. While Gary filled the feeders, the birds gathered high above the yard, giving their harsh "tsew" call, along with other equally unmelodic vocalizations. I knew there were at least 60 grosbeaks in the area, so when we counted 70, we weren't surprised. But a few days later, 90 arrived, expecting to be fed. The winter high count of 110 Evening Grosbeaks came 3 February, which was, remarkably, not even a yard record.

I was a novice birder on 14 December 1985 when five Evening Grosbeaks wandered into the backyard and onto my life list. By spring, 77, the maximum count for Illinois that year, gathered at the feeders on 25 April 1986. None stayed to be recorded for the Spring Bird Count.

The maximum count in my yard occurred 17 January 1987 when 150 of the noisy birds arrived. During a phone call with my sister-in-law, we learned that between the two of us, there were 200 birds. Thankfully, that was the maximum count for the yard, not the daily average. Even our customary 35 birds can dispatch 50 pounds of sunflower seed faster than we like to buy it.

We recorded 50 Evening Grosbeaks during the 1987-88 season; five birds wintered in 1990-91.

While not rare, Evening Grosbeaks are uncommon and irregular migrants and winter residents in Illinois (Bohlen 1989). Most Evening Grosbeaks leave the state before the Illinois Spring Bird Count in May. While it is possible that some flocks in winter go unreported, a noisy bird as colorful as this one should cause some discussion at the local bird seed store.

— Judy K. DeNeal, 4240 Hwy. 345, Harrisburg, IL 62946

State's Second Great-tailed Grackle Record

While driving by an area approximately 1/2 mile south of Route 154 on 3400E on the Randolph/Perry County line 23 January 1994, we noticed a long, large blackbird perched on a round haybale cattle gate. The habitat was an unreclaimed stripmine used as livestock pastureland.

We parked our car next to the cattle feeder where we instantly recognized the bird as one of the *Quiscalus* grackles based on its large size, odd coloring, and long, heavy, slightly hooked black bill at least as long as the head. The throat was buffy brown and the lightest plumaged area on the bird. The head, neck, breast, flanks, and belly were light brown. Back, tail, vent, legs, and undertail coverts were dark black. We also noted a dark thin malar stripe.

We identified the bird as a female Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) and eliminated Boat-tailed Grackle (*Q. major*) based on the light iris and contrasty facial area. Most important to our identification was the loud, ringing "klack, klack, klack" we heard twice. Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds were also there for direct comparison. Our bird was smaller than these.

Finally, when the bird flew to a rubble pile and later a corn field, we noticed the long, keeled tail. Our observations are on file with IORC.

Even though the species has expanded dramatically in the Great Plains, the Great-tailed Grackle is listed as a very rare vagrant in our state with only one acceptable record, an adult female specimen collected in fall at Jacksonville, 5-7 October 1974 (Bohlen 1989). The species breeds as close as western Missouri and is found in winter in marshes, cultivated fields, and feedlots (Robbins 1992).

This sighting represents Illinois' first winter record for the species.

— Todd Fink, Rt. 1, Box 220, Ozark, IL 62972
and Cody Smout, R.R. 4, Box 633, Murphysboro, IL 62968

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Field Notes

Illustration of Snow Buntings by Denis Kania.

1993 - 94 Winter

by Robert Danley

The winter of 1993/94 provided a perfect example of the forces that shape the number and types of birds we observe. It was as if three seasons of the year, fall, winter, and spring, were compressed into the winter period. Mild temperatures (about 2.5 degrees above normal) and plentiful food sources (good berry crop in central/southern Illinois) in December may have induced many species to linger past their typical departure dates. Eastern Phoebe, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, American Pipit, Nashville Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Summer Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, and Lincoln's Sparrow were observed in December, and some even into January.

A frigid air mass descended from Siberia in January enveloping much of the nation during the last half of the month. Most rivers and lakes quickly froze over as temperatures hovered near zero for daytime highs in southern Illinois. Gulls even departed traditional sites along Lake Michigan during the intense cold. Feeder watchers also saw an abrupt change, many birds suddenly "disappeared". Observers visiting the few patches of open water at power plant lakes or Lock & Dam sites along the major rivers were treated to such rarities as Red-necked Grebe, Brant, Harlequin Duck, all three scoter species, and California Gull.

February continued the trend of less than normal precipitation. The temperatures moderated by mid-month with springlike conditions, but the month still finished slightly below normal.

Evening Grosbeaks and Red-breasted Nuthatches, guided by conditions elsewhere, irrupted across the state early in winter only to isolate into scattered pockets of abundance. Common Redpolls descended into the northern half of the state after the mid-January frigid air blast.

Even with abundant flood habitat, no large concentrations of waterfowl were found along the major rivers. Perhaps the floodwaters sterilized, instead of creating habitat. Large local grasslands afforded good numbers of Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls to winter. Rough-legged Hawks and other owl species were scarce outside traditional strongholds.

Other species deserving special notation include Red-throated and Pacific Loons, Western Grebe, Northern Gannet, King Eider, Common Moorhen, Rufous Hummingbird, Varied Thrush, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle and Hoary Redpoll. All the records herein will be reviewed by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee.

Many thanks to the many contributors who are acknowledged in an initialized format after the corresponding field record and collectively in the following list: Bruce Aird, David Athans (DAt), Louise Augustine, Margaret Baker (MBa), Steve Barg (SBg), Bill Bertrand, Laurence,Binford, Richard Biss, Brian Blevins (BBl), Vonna Bley, David Bohlen, Alan Branhagen (ABr), Arlene Brei, David Brenner (DBr), Toby Brown, Maury Brucker (MBr),Marilyn Campbell (MCa), Terry Carter, Robert Chapel, Phil Clem (PCl), Paul Clyne, Audra Curley (ACu), Michael Dani (MDa), Donald Dann (DDn), Lyle & Edna Davis (ED), Richard Day (RDa), Myrna Deaton, Dennis DeCourcey (DDe), Judy DeNeal, Sheryl DeVore, Danny Diaz, Jeff Donaldson (JDo), Mary Jane Easterday, Mark Elwonger (MEl), Terry Esker, Matt & Guy Fraker (MFr), Todd Fink, Peter Frederici, Sue Friscia, Joel Greenberg, Brad Grover, Ann Haverstock, Stanley Hedron (SHe), Kanae Hirabayashi, Cindy Holloway, Cathy Hutcheson, David Johnson, Kevin Kaltenbach, Robert Karraker (RKa), Dan Kassebaum (DKa), Judy Keasler (JKr),

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The following abbreviations are used in the text:

R= River
L=Lake
F.P.= Forest Preserve
C.A. = Conservation Area

m.ob. = many observers
S.P. = State Park
Co. = County
et al.= and others

ad.= adult
N.C. = Nature Center
S.F.= State Forest
N.W.R.= National Wildlife Refuge

Bald.L = Baldwin L (St. Clair/Randolph Co.)
CBG =Chicago Botanic Gardens (Cook Co.)
Chi = Chicago's lakefront parks -excluding JP & LCal (Cook Co.)
Clin.L =Clinton L (De Witt Co.)
CNC = Crabtree N.C. (Cook Co.)
CONWR= Crab Orchard N.W.R. (Williamson Co.)
Fermi = Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory (DuPage Co.)
HL =Horseshoe L (Madison Co.)
HLCA = Horseshoe L C.A. (Alexander Co.)
IBSP = Illinois Beach S.P. (Lake Co.)
JP = Chi's Jackson Park (Cook Co.)
KCP = Kennekuk Cove Park (Vermilion Co.)
LCal = Lake Calumet (Cook Co.)
LShel = Lake Shelbyville (Moultrie/Shelby Co.)
M.Arb = Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co.)
MM =McKee Marsh (Du Page Co.)
SLSP = Sangchris L S.P. (Sangamon/Christian Co.'s)
Spfld = Springfield (Sangamon Co.)
SLCA = Spring L C.A. (Tazwell Co.)
SRSF = Sand Ridge S.F. (Mason Co.)
UCCA = Union Co. C.A. (Union Co.)

Red-necked Grebe, Lockport Lock and Dam, Will County. 7 March 1994. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Winter Season Field Notes (1993-94)

Red-throated Loon

since fall to 19 Dec., Spfld (*DB).

Pacific Loon

LD: 10-16 Dec., Clin.L (*TF, *MSe, MD).

Common Loon

only one wintering report, Bald.L (KM, TF).

Pied-billed Grebe

MC: 76, UCCA, 22 Dec. (fide VK); 30, CONWR, 3 Jan. (TF); 20 wintered, Spfld (DB); 9, Braidwood, 1 Jan.(JM); several wintered, Powerton L (Tazewell Co.)(KR).

Horned Grebe

MC: 53, Bald.L,12 Jan. (TF, JD, CS); 12, Spfld, 19 Dec. (DB); 6, LaSalle L, 19 Dec. (CMc, JMc); 4, Clin.L, 19 Dec. (MD).

Red-necked Grebe

MC: 4, Bald.L , 12 Jan. (TF, JD, CS).

Eared Grebe

MC: 3, Rend L , 17 Dec. (*TF, JD). Others: 12 Jan., Bald.L (TF, JD, CS); 9-10 Feb., Highland Park (SBg, SD); 20 Feb., Peoria (KR, RS).

Western Grebe

LD: 2 Dec., Chicago (JPu); 21 Dec., Winfield Lock & Dam (seen along Illinois side of Mississippi R) (JV).

NORTHERN GANNET

19 Dec., Rock Island (Rock Island Co.) (* BBl et al.). 3rd state record. See Seasonal Highlights in this issue.

Left: Trumpeter Swan, one of 12 banded immatures from a Wisconsin flock in Decatur, IL. 14 Jan. 1994. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Below: Trumpeter Swan flock, Decatur, IL. 14 Jan. 1994. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

American White Pelican

1wintered, near Lacon (Marshall Co.) (KR, MD); 1-26 Dec., Sunset Park (Rock Island Co.) (PP, m.ob).

Doubled-crested Cormorant

MC: 100, HLCA, 21 Dec.(VK). Others: 17 Dec., Mercer Co (PP, KMy); 19 Dec., Spfld (DB); 25 Dec. (3), Chi/JP (JG, PC, m.ob); 31 Dec., Powerton L (KR, LA); 1 Jan. (2), Braidwood (JM); 2 Jan. (2), LCal (WM, MBa); 13 Jan., LShel (MD); 15 Jan., Big Muddy R (Jackson Co.)(CS, TF).

Great Blue Heron

MC: 143, UCCA, 22 Dec. (fide VK); 135, Big Muddy R (Jackson Co.), 2 Jan. (TF); 100+, Powerton L, 31 Dec.-1 Jan. (KR, LA); 67, Mercer Co., 17 Dec. (PP, KMy). Others: 26 Dec., Evanston (Perkins Woods) (RHe et al.); 31 Dec., Boone Co (AB).

Great Egret

1 wintered, Big Muddy R (Jackson Co.) (DKa, CS).

Cattle Egret

18 Dec., Mason Co. (*VK, *RR, ST).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

1 Dec.-2 Jan. (5-7), Little Calumet R (Cook Co) (*WM, MBa); 2 Jan., Meredosia (Morgan)(*DB).

Tundra Swan

20 Dec., Busse Reservoir (Cook Co.) (fide CW); 1 Jan. (2), Braidwood (JM); 23 Jan.-28 Feb. (imm.), Wolf L (Cook Co.)(WM); 19-20 Feb. (ad.), LChau (KR).

Trumpeter Swan

MC: 14 (12 imm., 2 ad.), Clin.L, 9 Jan. (RC, MD). Others: 18 Dec. (3), Macon Co. (*TMc); 2 Jan. (imm.), UCCA (BD); 14 Jan. (3), Governor Bond L (Bond Co.)(CMa).

Mute Swan

MC: 85, Wolf L (Cook Co.), 29 Jan. (WM); 20, Baker's L (Cook Co), 20 Dec. (fide CW); 11, Sangamon Co., 24 Jan. (DB); 10, n.e. Kane Co., 20 Dec. (fide CW); 7, SLCA, 20 Feb. (KR). Others: 19 Dec., Lock & Dam 14 (Rock Island Co.)(KMy); 7-8 Jan., UCCA (TF); 22 Jan. (2), Fox R (Kane Co.)(DS); 23 Jan. (3), Bald.L (KM); 16 Feb. (2), JP (PC).

Greater White-fronted Goose

MC: 131, Clinton Co., 20 Feb. (MSe); 70, UCCA, 8 Jan. (TF, JD); 45, SLCA, 19 Feb. (KR).

Snow Goose

MC: 30,000, CONWR, 3 Feb. (TF); 3,000+, Bald.L, 23 Jan. (KM). Others: 3, Chi (Planetarium), 25 Dec. (JG, m.ob.0).

Ross' Goose

3-18 Dec., Rend L (TF); 23 Jan. (1-3), Bald.L (KM).

BRANT

9 Jan., Clin.L (MD, *RC).

Canada Goose

MC: 19,000, UCCA, 21 Dec.(VK); 12,800, Third L (Lake Co.), 1 Jan. (DJ); 10,000, Clin.L, 9 Jan.(RC, MD).

Wood Duck

wintered (pr.), Spfld (DB); 18 Dec., Lockport (JM); 29 Dec.(2), LCal (WM, DM, SF); 1 Jan. (2), Wauk (LB).

Green-winged Teal

wintered, Winnebago Co.(DW); 16 Dec. (2), Clin.L (MD); 28 Jan. (female), Spfld (DB).

American Black Duck

MC: 309, Rend L, 18 Dec. (TF); 150, Heidecke L (Grundy Co.), 29 Dec.(JM); 96, UCCA, 21 Dec.(fide VK); 30, near MM, 5 Jan.(EW); 21, Spfld, 11 Jan.(DB).

Mallard

MC: 25,000, Braidwood, 1 Jan.(JM); 1,400, Spfld, 23 Jan. (DB); 935, Little Calumet R (Cook Co.), 2 Jan. (WM, DM, SF).

Northern Pintail

MC: 27, Carl. L, 19 Dec.(KM). Others: 8 Dec., Spfld (DB); 1 Jan., Braidwood (JM); 2 Jan., Little Calumet R (Cook Co.)(WM, DM, SF);17 Jan., Fox R (Kane Co.)(DS).

Blue-winged Teal

wintered (imm. female), Spfld (DB); 8 Dec., Boone Co. (AB); 16-19 Dec., Clin.L (MD, *RC, SB); 18 Dec., Rend L (*TF); 21 Dec. (4-3 male,1 female), CONWR (*AN).

Northern Shoveler

MC: 100, UCCA, 8 Jan. (TF); 85, HL, 12 Jan.(KM); 13, MM (7 female), 18 Dec.(EW); 10, Spfld, 7 Jan.(DB). Others: 20 Dec., JP (PC).'

Gadwall

MC: 400, UCCA, 8 Jan. (TF); 110, I & M Canal (Cook Co.), 19 Dec. (WS et al.); 65, Spfld, 24 Jan.(DB). Others: 18 Dec.(5), MM (EW); 2 Jan.(4), LCal (WM, DM, SF); 30 Jan., Fox R (Kendall Co.)(DS).

American Wigeon

MC: 208, UCCA, 21 Dec. (fide VK); 36, Sangamon Co., 24 Dec.(DB). Others: 1 Jan.-7 Feb., Wauk(LB, DJ); 1 Jan. (5), Will & Grundy Co. (JM); 5 Jan., HL(KM).

Canvasback

MC: 125, UCCA, 21 Dec.(fide VK); 65+, HL, 7 Jan. (KM). Others: wintered (4), Little Calumet R (Cook Co.)(JL); wintered (4 or 5), Spfld (DB); 18 Dec. (pr.), MM (EW); 1 Jan., Heidecke L (Grundy Co.)(JM).

Redhead

MC: 87, Jackson Co., 23 Jan.(CS); 50, CONWR, 11 Feb. (TF). Others: wintered (4-17), Spfld (DB); 21 Dec., Boone Co. (AB); 1 Jan. (3), Wauk (LB).

Ring-necked Duck

MC: 3,065, Rend L, 18 Dec. (TF); 600, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 250, Carl.L, 19 Dec. (KM); 95, SLCA, 28 Jan. (KR). Others: 7 Dec., JP (KC); 15-18 Dec. (pr.), M.Arb (EW et al); 15 Dec. (8), Joliet (JM); 26 Dec. (9), Spfld (DB); 26 Dec., Northbrook (LB); 23 Jan. (4), Illinois R (LaSalle Co.)(J & C Mc).

Greater Scaup

MC: 1,650, Evanston, 5 Dec. (DJ); 1,487, JP, 19 Dec. (PC). Others: 2 Dec. (10), Spfld (DB); 15 Jan. (20), CONWR (TF).

Lesser Scaup

MC: 47, Joliet, 18 Dec. (JM); 26, Spfld, 24 Dec. (DB).

KING EIDER

2-17 Jan. (imm. male), Blackhawk F.P. (Kane Co.) (*RNe, *m.ob., ph.). See Seasonal Highlights in this issue.

Harlequin Duck

16 Jan.-into Mar. (female), Spfld (*DB). See Seasonal Highlights in this issue.

Oldsquaw

Others: 22 Dec. (4), Lock & Dam #13 (Whiteside Co.) (*KMy). Others: 13 Dec., JP (PC); 19-28 Dec., Spfld (DB); 31 Dec.- 17 Jan., Powerton L (KR, LA); 1 Jan. (male), Heidecke L (Grundy Co.)(*JM); 17 Jan., Pekin (KR, RC); 2-6 Feb., Spfld (DB); 4 Feb., HL (KM); 7 Feb., Bald.L (KM); 11 Feb., CONWR (TF); 20 Feb., East Peoria (KR, RS). Conspicously absent from L Michigan.

Black Scoter

1 Jan.-27 Feb.(imm. male), Spfld (*DB); 18 Dec., Rend L(*DR); 14 Jan., JP (PC).

Immature male King Eider, Blackhawk Forest Preserve, Kane County. 4 Jan. 1994. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich. (See Seasonal Highlights.)

Surf Scoter

18 Dec.(2), Crane L. (Mason Co.) (*DB); 13 Jan., LShel (MD); 29 Jan., Bald.L (KR).

White-winged Scoter

18 Dec., Peoria Co. (*CH); 23 Dec.(imm. female), SLCA (ET, VH); 11 Jan.-16 Jan., Spfld (DB). Spring arrivals in early Feb.

Common Goldeneye

MC: 2,500, Heidecke L (Grundy Co.), 29 Dec.- 1 Jan. (JM); 2,000, Rend L, 9 Jan. (TF); 575+, HL, 6 Jan. (KM); 450, Spfld, 6 Jan. (DB); 240, Evanston, 18 Feb. (EW); 98, JP, 11 Dec. (PC, HR).

Bufflehead

MC: 56, JP, 2 Dec. (PC, HR); 46, Spfld, 1 Dec. (DB); 15, Bald.L, 23 Jan. (KM).

Hooded Merganser

MC: 114, Bald.L, 23 Jan. (TF, KM); 19, Braidwood, 1 Jan. (JM); 18, Spfld, 9 Jan. (DB); 6, La Salle Co., 9 Jan. (C & JMc); 5 (4 males), Wilmette, 6 Jan. (one present to 13 Jan.) (EW); 5, s.e. Cook Co., 2 Jan. (WM, DM, SF); 4, Wauk, 1 Jan. (LB); JP, 26 Jan. (PC).

Common Merganser

MC: 10,000, Powerton L, 29 Dec.-1 Jan. (KR, LA); 2,000+, Bald.L, 23 Jan. (KM); 1,500, Heidecke L (Grundy Co.), 29 Dec. (JM); 500, Spfld, 12-13 Jan. (DB); 260, LCal, 2 Jan. (WM, DM, SF).

Red-breasted Merganser

MC: 135, LCal, 2 Jan. (WM, DM, SF); 114, JP, 2 Dec. (PC). Others: 31 Dec.-1Jan., Powerton L (KR, LA); 3 wintered, Spfld (DB).

Ruddy Duck

MC: 100, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK). Others: 18 Dec. (imm. male), MM (EW); 1 Jan. (3), Braidwood (JM); 1 Jan., GLNTC (LB); 2 Jan. (2), Cook Co. (WM, DM, SF); 6 Jan. (5), HL (KM); wintered (3), Sangamon Co. (DB).

Black Vulture

MC: 36, Vienna (Johnson Co.), 3 Jan. (TF); 2, HLCA, 21 Dec. (VK).

Turkey Vulture

MC: 18, HLCA, 21 Dec. (VK); 7, Washington Co., 20 Dec. (VK, DB); 2, Vermilion Co., 1 Jan. (MCa); 2, wintered, Carl.L (KM).

OSPREY

22 Dec., Thomson (Carroll Co.) (*PP, DMo).

Bald Eagle

MC: **167** (87 ad.,80 imm.—largest total ever), Mercer Co., 17 Dec. (PP); 64, Peoria Lock & Dam, 17 Jan. (RC); 51 (33 ad., 18 imm.), Havana/Beardstown Eagle Count, 8 Jan. (RC, HP); 29 (17 ad., 12 imm.), UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK). Others: 3, c. Du Page Co., 21 Jan. (fide EW).

Northern Harrier

MC: **59+**, Jasper Co., 27 Dec. (TE); **47**, Marion Co., 6 Jan. (TE); 19, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 8, Carl.L, 19 Dec. (KM); 3, Winnebago Co., 16 Dec. (DW); 2, La Salle Co., 9 Jan. (C & JMc); 2, Boone Co., wintered (AB).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

19 Dec. (2), Carl.L (KM); 30 Dec. (3), Bureau Co. (PP et al); 11 Jan. (ad.), Glencoe (LB); 29 Jan., Boone Co. (AB); 14 Feb., SRSF (KR); Feb. (5), Sangamon Co. (DB).

Cooper's Hawk

7-14 Dec. (ad), JP (PC); 11 Dec., La Salle Co. (C & JMc); 18 Dec., Rend L (KM); 18 Dec. (4), Winnebago Co. (DW); 19 Dec., LCal (JL); 1 Jan., Green River C.A. (C & JMc); 3 Jan. (ad.), Buffalo Grove (DJ); 22 Jan. (ad.), Glencoe (LB); Jan. (6), Sangamon Co. (DB); 11 Feb. (3-2 ad., imm.), Mason Co. (KR); 26 Feb. (2), Logan (Franklin Co.)(LS).

Northern Goshawk

19 Dec. (imm.), Spfld (PWa); 27 Dec. (imm.), Kennekuk Pk. (Vermilion Co.)(JS); 29 Dec. (imm.), Vermilion Co. (MCa); 1 Jan. (ad.), Green River C.A. (C & JMc); 2 Jan. (imm.), Kishwaukee (Boone Co.)(ABr, KK, SSm); 5 Jan. (2), Boone Co. (AB); 10 Jan. (ad.), SRSF (KR); 13 Jan. (ad.female), Sangamon Co. (DB); 28 Jan. (subad.), SRSF (KR); 5-20 Feb., Urbana (RW, RC); 6 Feb. (ad.), Mahomet (Champaign Co.)(RC); wintered (ad.), Rockford (DW); wintered (imm.), JP (PC).

Red-shouldered Hawk

14 Dec., Spfld (DB); 18 Dec. (3), Rend L (KM, MSe); 22 Dec. (5), UCCA (VK); 2 Jan., Piatt Co. (MD); 30 Jan., Durand (Winnebago Co.)(DW); Jan.- Feb. (imm.), Urbana (RC); wintered, Rockford (DW).

Red-tailed Hawk

f MC: 39, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 18, Carl.L, 19 Dec. (KM); 17, LCal, 2 Jan. (WM); 7, Chi, 18 Dec. (JL); 3, wintered, Boone Co. (AB).

Rough-legged Hawk

MC: 6, Winnebago Co., 30 Jan. (DW); 5, Fermi, 16 Jan. (m.ob.); 4, Northbrook (Cook Co.), 23 Jan. (DJ); 4 (1 dark, 3 light phase), Techny (Cook Co.), 6 Feb. (JL); 2, Johnson Co., 16 Jan. (TF); 2, La Salle Co., 13 Feb. (C & JMc); 0, Spfld (DB).

Golden Eagle

8 Jan.- 23 Feb. (1-4), UCCA (TF); 1 Jan. (ad.), CONWR (CS).

American Kestrel

MC: 38, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 33, Winnebago Co., 18 Dec. (DW); 22, Jackson & Williamson Co., 11 Jan. (CS); 17, Spfld, 29 Jan. (DB); 15, LCal, 2 Jan. (JL); 8, Rend L, 18 Dec. (KM, MSe); 6, Boone Co., 15 Jan. (AB).

Merlin

8-9 Feb., **Rockford** (DW).

Peregrine Falcon

18 Dec., **McHenry Co.** (*TKi); 7 Jan. (imm.), **HL** (KM); period (3-4), Chi (PC).

Gray Partridge

7 Feb. (8), Durand (Winnebago Co.)(DW).

Ring-necked Pheasant

MC: 25, Topeka (Mason Co.), 28 Feb. (KR); 40, Fermi area, 18 Dec. (m.ob.); 8, Boone Co., 4 Feb. (AB); 3 (poor #'s), Sangamon Co. (DB).

Greater Prairie-Chicken

MC: 37, Marion Co., 30 Dec. (TE).

Wild Turkey

MC: 50+, Giant City S.P., 26 Jan. (CS); 30, La Salle Co., 27 Feb. (C & JMc); 21, KCP, 5 Feb. (MCa).

Northern Bobwhite

MC: 22, Sangamon Co., 5 Jan. (DB); 20, Carl.L, 19 Dec. (KM); 12, Mathiessen S.P., 2 Jan. (C & JMc); 6, Ogle Co., 6 Feb. (DW).

KING RAIL

19 Jan., Jasper Co. (**TE—road kill). 3rd IL winter record.'

Virginia Rail

18 Dec.(2), Will Co. (*JM); **1 Jan. (3 heard)**, IBSP (JN, DD et al.);**18 Jan.(2)**, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co.) (CS, TF).

COMMON MOORHEN

2 Jan., Wolf L. (Cook Co.) (*MDa). 2nd IL winter record.'

American Coot

MC: 1,100, Braidwood, 1 Jan. (JM); 200, UCCA, 3 Jan. (TF); 75, Bald.L, 23 Jan. (KM); 56, Sangamon Co., 28 Dec. (DB); 54, Chi, 25 Dec. (JL); 8, Rockford, 18 Dec. (DW).

Sandhill Crane

21 Jan.-period (injured bird), **Carl.L** (TF, KM).'

Killdeer

MC: 467, HLCA, 21 Dec. (VK); 75, Pulaski Co., 21 Dec. (TF); 6, Winnebago Co., 18 Dec. (DW).'

Least Sandpiper

21 Dec. (3), Alexander Co. (*VK, CH); **31 Dec. (3)**, Jackson Co. (CS).

Dunlin

2 Dec., JP (PC); 5 Dec., La Salle Co. (C & JMc); 4-5 Dec., CBG (AS, m.ob.); **31 Dec. (2)**, Jackson Co. (CS).'

Common Snipe

MC: 39, Jackson Co., 31 Dec. (CS); 23, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 8, Winnebago Co., 18 Dec. (DW); 3, Glenview Naval Air Station, 18 Dec. (LC); 2, Downers Grove, **16 Jan.** (BW); **30 Jan.**, Fermi (AS).

Bonaparte's Gull

MC: 225, Spfld, 19 Dec. (DB); 83, Little Calumet R (Cook Co.), 4 Dec. (WM). Others: 18 Dec., Joliet (JM); 19 Dec. (2), Carl.L

(KM); 25 Dec., Chi (Montrose) (AS); 31 Dec.-1 Jan., Pow.L (KR).

MEW GULL

19-21 Dec. (2nd winter), Rock Island (Rock Island Co.) (*PP, *BB); 2-3 Jan. (ad.), Chi (Montrose) (RH); 1 Feb. (ad.), Wauk (*DD).

Ring-billed Gull

MC: 10,500, HL, 6 Jan. (KM); 4,000, Spfld, 19 Dec. (DB); 350, Wilmette, 23 Dec. (EW); 258, Boone Co., 26 Dec. (AB).'

California Gull

6 Jan.(ad.), **Madison Co.** (*JV); 6 Jan.(1st winter), **Peoria Lock & Dam** (*KR).

Herring Gull

MC: 4,300, LCal, 31 Dec. (WM); 1,276, JP, 26 Jan. (PC); 100, Spfld, 24 Jan. (DB); 100, HL, 6 Jan. (KM).'

Thayer's Gull

MC: 16 (5-1st winter, 2nd winter, 4th winter and 9 ad.), Peoria Lock & Dam, 26 Dec.-8 Feb. (KR); 4 (3ad.,1 imm.), Chi, 23 Jan. (DW); 3, Wauk, 1 Jan. (LB). Others: 7 Dec. (2nd winter), Lake Co. (DJ); 10 Dec. (ad.), Lake Co. (DJ, WMo); 5 Jan., Du Page Co. (EW); 7 Jan. (ad.), Spfld (DB); 8 Jan. (2 ad.), LCal (WM); 17 Jan.(2 ad.), Peoria Lock & Dam (RC); 24 Jan. (imm.), Spfld (DB); 6 Feb. (ad.), Starved Rock Lock & Dam (C & JMc); 19 Feb. (1st winter), LCal (WM, GKo).

Iceland Gull

MC: 6 (1st winter, 5 ad.), Peoria Lock & Dam (Tazewell Co.), 7 Jan.-5 Feb. (KR); 4 (3 ad., 1st winter), LCal, 23 Jan. (RC); 3, LCal, 25 Dec. '(JL); 3 (2- 1st winter, ad.), Chi, 23 Jan. (DW). Others: 31 Dec. (1st winter), Madison Co. (*JV); 5 Jan., **s.e. Du Page Co.** (EW); 8 Jan. (ad.-Kumliens), LCal (JL, WM); 23 Jan., La Salle Co. (C & JMc); 26 Jan. (2nd winter), Alton (Madison Co.)(*TF); 4 Feb. (ad.), Alton (CS, BD).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

MC: 2 (ad., 3rd winter), Heidecke L. (Will Co.), 1 Dec. (*JM); 2 (ad.), Peoria Lock & Dam, 29 Dec.-8 Feb. (KR). Others: Dec.-1 Jan. (ad.), Spfld (DB); 11 Dec.-15 Jan. (ad.), LCal (JL, WM); 1 Jan.-28 Feb. (ad. **with grayish legs**), Chi (Montrose)(EW, KH, m.ob.); 3 Jan. (ad.), Wauk (*DD); 9 Jan. (2nd winter), La Salle Co. (C & JMc); 2 Feb. (2nd winter), Carl.L (MD).

Glaucous Gull

MC: 6 (4-1st winter,2 ad.), LCal, 19 Feb. (JL, WM); 6 (2-1st winter, 3rd, 4th and 2 ad.) Peoria Lock & Dam, 30 Dec.- 5 Feb. (KR); 5 (1st/2nd winter), Alton (Madison Co.), 26 Jan. (TF, JD, CS). Others: 18 Dec. (ad.), **e.c. Kane Co.** (*AS, MM); 18-19 Dec. (1st winter, 3rd), s.e. DuPage Co. (WM); 2 Jan., La Salle Co. (C & JMc); 21 Jan. (2nd winter), **South Elgin Dam** (Kane Co.)(DS); 1 Feb. (2 ad.), Spfld (DB); 19 Feb. (2nd winter), Carl.L (MD).

Great Black-backed Gull

MC: 2 (1st winter, ad.), Alton (Madison Co), 12 Jan. (TF); 2, LCal, 8 Jan.- 17 Feb. (JL). Others: 29 Dec.- 2 Feb. (ad.), Peoria Lock & Dam (KR); 22 Jan. (3rd winter), La Salle Co. (C & JMc); 24 Jan. (ad.), Spfld (DB); 26 Jan. (ad.), JP (PC).

Mourning Dove

MC: 398, UCCA, 22 Dec.(VK); 160, s.e. Chi, wintered (PC);

Great-horned Owl, 2 Jan. 1994, Springfield. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

152, LCal, 2 Jan. (WM, DM, SF); 130, Sangamon Co., 22 Jan. (DB).

Monk Parakeet

MC: 60+, Chi (south side), wintered (PC). Others: 9, Calumet Beach Park, 2 Jan. (m.ob.).

Common Barn-Owl

2 Jan., **LCal** (DM,WM,SF); 25-28 Jan., **Gallatin Co.** (JKr).

Eastern Screech-Owl

MC: 18, s.e. Du Page Co., 19 Dec. (AW); 16, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 7, Sangamon Co., 19 Dec. (DB).

Great Horned Owl

MC: 29, Spfld, 19 Dec. (DB); 8, Carl.L, 19 Dec. (KM).

Snowy Owl

MC: 3, Chi, 25 Dec. (JG, m.ob.). Others: 5-25 Dec., Chi (Montrose) (m.ob); 19 Dec., La Salle Co. (C & JMc); 1 Jan. (2), Wauk (LB); 14 Feb. (wounded from gunshot), **Clay Co.** (TE).

Long-eared Owl

MC: 16 (4 locations), Du Page Co., 5 Jan. (EW); 12, Green River C.A., 1 Jan. (C & JMc). Others: 18 Dec.- 16 Jan. (2), Homer L (Champaign Co.)(RC); 19 Dec., Rend L (DKa); 1 Jan. (3), Orland Park (AW); 11 Feb., Mason Co. (KR).'

Short-eared Owl

MC: **30**, Jackson Co., 15 Dec. (CS); 20+, Jasper Co., 27 Dec.

(TE); 15, Marion Co., 6 Jan. (TE). Others: 8 Jan. (3), Fermi (MM); 8 Jan. (2), De Kalb (DS); 12 Jan., Joliet Arsenal (JM).'

Northern Saw-whet Owl

17 Dec., Mercer Co. (PP, KMy); 19 Dec.- 23 Jan., Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co.)(DAt, *WM, AW); 28 Dec.- 12 Jan. Mattoon (Coles Co.)(ASm); 2 Jan., Winnebago Co. (*JDo); 5 Feb., Johnson Co. (TF).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Nov.- 15 Jan., Murphysboro (Jackson Co.)(*BD). See Meadowlark 3:2 for details.

Belted Kingfisher

MC: 24, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK). Others: 8 Dec.- 1 Jan. (4), Will Co. (JM); 22 Dec., JP (PC); 2 Jan. (2), LCal (WM, DM, SF); wintered, Peoria Lock & Dam (KR).

Red-headed Woodpecker

MC: 28, s.e. Lake Co., 26 Dec. (DJ, DDn, EW); 27, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK). Others: 18 Dec., Winnebago Co. (DW), small #'s wintered, Spfld (DB).

Red-bellied Woodpecker

MC: 150, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK). Others: 8 Dec. (11), Spfld (DB); 26 Dec. (18), Lake Forest (DJ).

Blue Jay, 10 Jan. 1994, Springfield. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

MC: 32, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK). Others: 1 Dec. (3), Spfld (DB); 4 Dec., Ottawa (C & JMc); 18 Dec. (2- 1 wintered), Rockford (DW); 23-24 Dec., CBG (LB); 26 Dec., Highland Park (LB); 1 Jan., Mundelein (AS); 1 Jan., Joliet (JM).

Downy Woodpecker

MC: 113, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 55, s.e. Lake Co., 26 Dec. (DJ, DDn, EW).

Hairy Woodpecker

MC: 37, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 17, s.e. Lake Co., 26 Dec. (DJ, DDn, EW).

Northern Flicker

MC: 159, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK). Others: 16 Dec. (13), Spfld (DB); 5 Jan. (25), Saline Co. (JD).

Pileated Woodpecker

MC: 81, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK). Others: 6 Jan. (3), Spfld (DB); 26 Dec. (female), Oakton Community College (Cook Co.) (*SHe et al) with roost hole found .75 mile away, 28 Dec.-7 Mar. (EW, *m.ob.) - probably same bird as was present nearby last fall.

Eastern Phoebe

1 Jan., Vermilion Co. (*VB, *ME); 10 Jan., Sangamon Co. (*DB).

Horned Lark

MC: 300, Sangamon Co., 17 Jan. (DB); 70, Zeigler (Franklin Co.), 31 Jan. (LS).

Blue Jay

MC: 208, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 57, Lake Forest, 26 Dec. (DJ); 32, Sangamon Co., 19 Dec. (DB); 18, Boone Co., 1 Jan. (AB).

American Crow

MC: 320, Spfld, 15 Dec. (DB); 164, Greene Valley F P (Du Page Co.), 19 Dec. (WM, AW, DAt); 133, LCal, 2 Jan. (WM, DM, SF).

FISH CROW

21 Dec., HLCA (fide VK).

Black-capped Chickadee

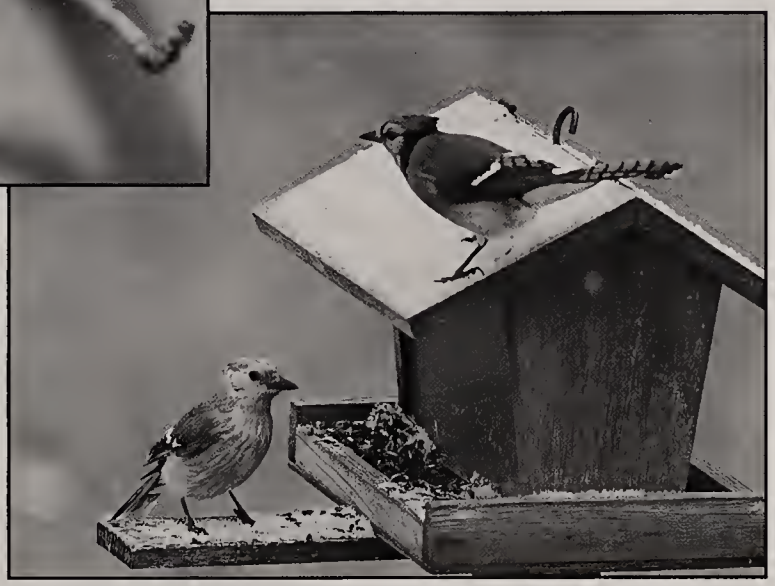
MC: 184, s.e. Lake Co., 26 Dec. (DJ, DDn, EW); 33, LCal, 2 Jan. (WM, DM, SF); 25, Spfld, 19 Dec. (DB).

Carolina Chickadee

MC: 222, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK).

Tufted Titmouse

MC: 127, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 31, Sangamon Co., 21 Feb. (DB).



Red-breasted Nuthatch

MC: 90, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 59, CONWR, 10 Jan. (CS, BD); 35, SRSF, 4-11 Feb. (KR); 24 (11 feeder sites), Evanston, 15 Dec.-15 Jan. (EW); 6, Lake Forest, 26 Dec. (DJ); 6, Spfld, 15 Dec. (DB).

White-breasted Nuthatch

MC: 100, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 55, s.e. Lake Co., 26 Dec. (DJ, DDn, EW); 5, Spfld, 19 Dec. (DB).

Brown Creeper

MC: 27, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 9, Sangamon Co., 15 Dec. (DB).

Carolina Wren

MC: 86, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 9, Sangamon Co., 6 Jan. (DB); 4, GLNTC, 1 Jan. (LB). Others: 3, s.e. Lake Co., 26 Dec. (DDn, EW); 2, Evanston, 10 Jan. (EW).

House Wren

8 Dec.(2), Spfld (*DB); 18 Dec., Champaign Co. (*JS); 19 Dec., Clinton Co. (*KM); 21 Dec., Villa Ridge (Alexander Co.)(*DB); 21 Dec., HLCA (*JS); 2 Jan., Quincy (Adams Co.)(*KV).

Winter Wren

MC: 25, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK). Others: 19 Dec. (4), Spfld (DB); 26 Dec., Lake Co. (DJ).

Marsh Wren

18 Dec., Rend L (*DKa); 19 Dec., Mercer Co (*KMy).

Golden-crowned Kinglet

MC: 132, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK). Others: 14 Dec.(4), Spfld (DB).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

MC: 45, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 7, Sangamon Co., Dec. (DB).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER

2 different birds,16 & 17 Dec., Clinton Co. (*MSe).

Eastern Bluebird

MC: 94, Saline Co., 5 Dec. (JD); 65, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 9, Sangamon Co., 31 Dec. (DB); 3, Greene Valley F.P. (Du Page Co.), 19 Dec. (*WM).

Hermit Thrush

MC: 33, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK). Other: 20-22 Jan., Spfld (DB, DO).

American Robin

MC: 500, Glenview, 26 Dec. (JSu); 400-500, Christian Co., wintered (DB); 400, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 63, Carl.L, 19 Dec. (KM); 32, Evanston, wintered (EW).

Varied Thrush

7 Jan., Naperville (*ED).

Gray Catbird

18 Dec., Bloomington (MFr); 18 Dec., Rend L (*DKa); 19 Dec., Spfld (*VK); 19 Dec., M.Arb (*BA); 1 Jan., Lake Forest (fide EW).

Northern Mockingbird

MC: 39, HLCA, 21 Dec. (VK). Others: 26-28 Dec., Lake Forest (*MEl, *m.ob.); wintered (3), Sangamon Co. (DB).

Brown Thrasher

MC: 4, Rend L, 18 Dec. (MSe, KM); 3, UCCA, 22 Dec. (fide VK); 2, Clin.L, 16 Dec. (MD).

American Pipit

18 Dec. (7), Rend L. (*CS); 21 Dec., Alexander Co. (*MD).

Cedar Waxwing

MC: 418, HLCA, 21 Dec. (VK); 156, Sangamon Co., 6 Dec.

Hermit Thrush, 22 Jan. 1994, Springfield. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

(DB); 83, Boone Co., 3 Jan. (AB).

Northern Shrike

9 Dec., IBSP (TF); 18 Dec., Winnebago Co. (DW); 20 Dec., CNC (*CW); 2 Jan., Ogle Co. (DW); 2 Jan., Peoria Co. (*MBr); 2 Jan., Winnebago Co.(*RMy); 6 Feb., GLPSP (DS); 28 Feb., Bridgeview (Cook Co.)(SF).

Loggerhead Shrike

MC: 13, HLCA, 21 Dec. (VK); 3, Clinton Co., 23 Jan. (KM). Other: 2 Feb., Fayette Co. (MD).

European Starling

MC: 10,000, Glenview, 26 Dec. (JSu); 3,500, LCal, 12 Dec. (WM); 3,500, Greene Valley F.P. (Du Page Co.), 19 Dec. (WM).

Nashville Warbler

22 Dec. (male), UCCA (*DB).

Cape May Warbler

16 Dec., Spfld (*DB); 30 Dec.- 2 Jan., Adams Co (*ADi).

Yellow-rumped Warbler

MC: 190, UCCA, 22 Dec. (VK); 12, Skokie Lagoons (Cook Co.), 26 Dec. (m.ob.); 6, Sangamon Co., 10-11 Jan. (DB). Others: 18 Dec. (3), Channahon (*JM); 18 Dec., Dec., Decatur (MD); 23 Dec. (2), CBG (LB); 1 Jan., Danville (MD); 1 Jan. (2), Des Plaines R (Lake Co.)(AS); wintered (4), West Frankfort (Franklin Co.)(LS).

Pine Warbler

18 Dec., Parnell (De Witt Co.)(MD).

Palm Warbler

19 Dec., near Salt Creek F.P. (Tree Nursery) (Cook Co) (*PT).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER

19 Dec. (male), Spfld (*VK). 2nd Illinois winter record.

Common Yellowthroat

3 Dec., Rend L (TF); 16 Dec., Spfld (DB); 17 Dec., **Lockport Prairie N.P.** (*JM); 19 Dec., Carl.L (DKa); 20 Dec., **Deer Grove F.P. (Cook Co.)**(*TCa,TSz); 22 Dec., UCCA (*CMo); **11 & 13 Jan.**, SLSP (DB).

SUMMER TANAGER

11-25 Dec., Charleston (Coles Co.) (*RKa). 1st Illinois winter record.

Northern Cardinal

MC: 505, HLCA, 21 Dec. (VK).

Indigo Bunting

18 Dec., **Rend L.**(*KM, MSe); 3 Jan. (imm.), **Buffalo Grove** (*DJ) (See Seasonal Highlights).

Dickcissel

26 Dec., **Clinton Co.** (TF); 31 Dec.- 3 Jan. (female), **Sangamon Co.** (DB); 9 Jan., **Franklin Co.** (TF); 16 Dec.- 17 Jan. (2 imm.), **Saline Co.** (JD).

Rufous-sided Towhee

MC: 22, HLCA, 21 Dec. (VK); 11, Rend L, 18 Dec. (KM, MSe). "Spotted form": 4 Jan. (at feeder), Burr Ridge (Du Page Co.)(fide EW); 19 Feb., Spfld (DB).

American Tree Sparrow

MC: 1,000, Clin.L, 22 Jan. (MD); 200, Mason Co., 28 Feb. (KR); 193, LCal, 2 Jan. (WM, DM, SF); 105, Sangamon Co., 31 Dec. (DB); 61, Carl.L, 19 Dec. (KM). Others: 7, Evanston, 25 Jan. (EW); 2-3, JP, wintered (PC).

Chirping Sparrow

1 Dec. (2), **Spfld** (DB).

Field Sparrow

MC: 121, HLCA, 21 Dec. (fide VK); 25, Rend L, 18 Dec. (KM, MSe); 11, Spfld, mid-Dec. (DB).

Vesper Sparrow

5 Dec., **JP** (*PC); 17 Dec., **Mercer Co.** (*KMy); 1 Jan., **Vermilion Co.** (*ME, *VB).

Cape May Warbler, 23 December 1993, Springfield. This is a late date for this migrant. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Savannah Sparrow

MC: 12, Franklin Co., 27 Dec. (LSt); 8, Franklin Co., 30 Jan. (TF).

LeConte's Sparrow

12 Dec.- 30 Jan. (from 5 down to 1), Franklin Co. (TF). Only report.

Fox Sparrow

MC: 7, HLCA, 22 Dec. (fide VK). Others: 3 Dec. (2), Spfld (DB); 18 Dec., Winnebago Co. (DW); 22 Jan. (2), La Salle Co. (CMk,JMk).

Song Sparrow

MC: 324, UCCA, 22 Dec. (fide VK); 63, LCal, 2 Jan. (WM, DM, SF); 40, Rend L, 18 Dec. (KM, MSe); 24, Spfld, 8 Dec. (DB).

Lincoln's Sparrow

21 Dec., Alexander Co. (*RP); 29 Dec., Vermilion Co. (*ME); 30 Jan., Champaign Co. (*RC).

Swamp Sparrow

MC: 490, UCCA, 22 Dec. (fide VK); 25, M.Arb, 19 Dec. (TB et al).

White-throated Sparrow

MC: 281, HLCA, 21 Dec. (fide VK). Others: 6, Rockford, 16 Jan. (DW).

White-crowned Sparrow

MC: 62, UCCA, 22 Dec. (fide VK); 50, Pulaski Co., 21 Feb. (TF); 3, Techny (Cook Co.), 26 Dec. (LB).

Harris' Sparrow

17-19 Dec., **Clinton Co.** (MSe).

Dark-eyed Junco

MC: 324, HLCA, 21 Dec. (fide VK).

Lapland Longspur

MC: 700, Sangamon Co., 14 Jan. (DB); 500, 22 Jan., Bond Co. (KM); 250, Winnebago Co., 4 Jan. (DW); 75, Jackson Co., 14 Jan. (CS).

Snow Bunting

MC: 111, La Salle Co., 19 Dec. (CMk,JMk); 70, Winnebago Co., 4 Jan. (DW); 20, IBSP, 1 Jan. (JN, DD et al.). Others: 10, Will Co., 1 Jan. (JM); 8, Sangamon Co., 31 Jan. (DB); 2, Evanston, 12 Jan. (EW).

Red-winged Blackbird

MC: 75,000, HLCA, 21 Dec. (fide VK); 4,000, LCal, 31 Dec. (WM); 100, Spfld, 9 Dec. (DB).

Eastern Meadowlark

MC: 201, HLCA, 21 Dec. (fide VK), 19, Putnam Co., 30 Dec. (CMk,JMk); 9, Sangamon Co., 22 Jan. (DB); 4, Waterfall Glen F.P., 19 Dec. (DDe et al.).

Yellow-headed Blackbird

19 Dec.- 9 Jan., **De Witt Co.** (*RP, *MD).

Rusty Blackbird

MC: **230**, UCCA, 22 Dec. (fide VK). Others: 30 Dec., Lockport (JM); 2 Jan., La Salle Co. (CMk,JMk); 20 Dec., Dundee (RM).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE

23 Jan.(ad. female), Randolph Co. (*TF, *CS).

Common Grackle

MC: 250,000, HLCA, 21 Dec. (fide VK). Others: 87, Glenview, 26 Dec. (JSu).

Brown-headed Cowbird

MC: 1,500, HLCA, 21 Dec. (fide VK); 150, LCal, 12 Dec.

(WM); 65, Spfld, 9 Dec. (DB).

Purple Finch

MC: 150, Ozark (Johnson Co.), 26 Feb. (TF); 15, SRSF, 28 Jan. (KR); 12, M.Arb, 5 Jan. (EW); 7, Green River C.A., 1 Jan. (CMk,JMk); 6, Grayslake (Lake Co.), 1 Jan. (DJ).

House Finch

MC: 79, HLCA, 21 Dec. (fide VK); 75, Spfld, 3 Jan. (DB).

Red Crossbill

1 Jan., Mundelein (BDe).

White-winged Crossbill

10-30 Jan. (3), Urbana (ACu, RC); 11 Feb. (female), SRSF (KR).

Common Redpoll

MC: 250, Clin.L, 29 Jan. (RC); 100, Joliet Arsenal, 18 Dec. (JM); 90, La Salle Co., 19 Dec. (CMk,JMk); 50, LCal, 31 Dec. (WM); 40, IBSP, 1 Jan. (JN, DD et al.); 37, Rockford, 20 Feb. (DW); 30, CBG, 26 Dec. (LB). Large numbers present at n.e. IL feeders from mid-Jan. to mid-Feb. Numerous feeders with over 20 birds present in early Feb.

Pine Siskin

MC: 100, all winter, Urbana (RC); 100, M.Arb, 19 Dec. (TB et al.); 45, Spfld, 10 Dec. (DB); 25, Braidwood, 1 Jan. (JM). Few concentrations noted.

American Goldfinch

MC: 185, Bond Co., 22 Jan. (KM); 30, Spfld, 5 Jan. (DB); 28, JP, 21 Dec. (PC); 23, Wilmette, 18-19 Feb. (EW).

Evening Grosbeak

MC: **110**, Saline Co., 3 Feb. (wintered) (JD) - (See Seasonal Highlight). Others: 22 Dec., Argo (Carroll Co.)(PP, DMo); 30 Dec., Princeton (Bureau Co.)(PP, KMy, BBl); 15-16 Jan., Mundelein (SD); 4 Feb., SRSF (KR).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

17 Dec. (2), **Mercer Co.** (PP, KMy, BB); 19 Dec., **Clin.L** (*RC).

Exotics:

Blue-crowned Parakeet

26 Dec., n.e. Cook Co. (DBr).

Season	Date Reports due to FIELD NOTES EDITOR
WINTER SEASON	
1 December - 28 February	**7 March**
SPRING MIGRATION	
1 March - 31 May	**7 June**
BREEDING SEASON	
1 June - 31 July	**7 August**
FALL MIGRATION	
1 August - 30 November	**7 December**

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Robert Chapel, 306 1/2 West California, Urbana, IL 61801.

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Red-tailed Hawk, Springfield. 21 Dec. 1993.
Photo by Dennis Oehmke.